Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-189
Monday
30 September 1991

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Foreign Ministers Discuss Area Issues in NYC

'Abd-al-Majid Chairs Meeting at UN

NC2809204391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers held a meeting today that was chaired by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at UN General Assembly Headquarters.

The ministers discussed the items on the agenda of the UN General Assembly, particularly those concerning Arab issues, the most important of which are the Palestinian issue and the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. The ministers also reviewed such topics as Israel's nuclear weapons and its occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights and South Lebanon, the repercussions of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, and cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Chairs Meeting

NC2909091191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers held a meeting chaired by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayzy in New York last night.

The ministers discussed basic topics on the UN General Assembly agenda, including the Palestinian issue, the Middle East situation, the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and repercussions of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Arab League Head on Jerusalem, Charter Amendment

NC3009091291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0839 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that there will be no bargaining on Jerusalem during the international peace conference and that the Arab position on this matter is clear. The international community's stand on the issue is the same as the Arab stand, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he believes that containing the aftershocks of the "Gulf earthquake" is not impossible, although it is difficult in the current circumstances.

In an interview published by the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab media should be responsible for healing the wounds and closing up Arab ranks in the future.

He said that a political decision has been reached on proposals to amend the Arab League Charter, noting that these proposals are based on two premises: amending the text of the charter or adding annexes to it that deal only with the issues subject to amendment.

He remarked that the Arab League Secretariat has received responses from Egypt, Morocco, and Libya supporting the addition of annexes to the charter's text. He said the Arab League is waiting for responses from the other member states before making a decision.

Islamic Affairs

GCC, Iranian Foreign Ministers Meet 27 Sep

LD2809194391 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] A meeting was held yesterday evening between the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The issues included in the UN General Assembly agenda were discussed during the meeting. The following statement was released after the meeting:

The GCC foreign ministers and the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran held their second annual meeting in New York on 27 September 1991. The ministers reviewed issues of mutual concern in a spirit of Islamic fraternity and amity. They expressed their satisfaction at the developments in their relations and reiterated their determination to continue to bolster relations and cooperation in all fields based on the principles of the UN Charter, the Islamic Conference Organization, and international law applicable to the amicable relations among their peoples—particularly respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, adherence to recognized international boundaries, resolution of differences by peaceful means, avoidance of the use of force or threatening the use of force in their relations, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and the promotion of joint dialogue and understanding.

The ministers reviewed the level of the current relations between the GCC countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran and agreed to convene a meeting at ministerial level in the region during the first quarter of 1992 with a view to establishing a framework for the bolstering of relations among them.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestine National Council 20th Session Ends

'Text' of Political Communique

CM2909090191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Sep 91 p 15

["Text" of political communique issued by the Palestine National Council, PNC, at the 20th PNC session in Algiers on 28 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From the date of its beginning in 1965, the

Palestinian revolution has embarked on a long, bitter, and strenuous struggle during which our people have made huge sacrifices. This beginning came after years of excluding the Palestinian question and considering it a refugee question.

The long years of struggle in all forms, under the PLO leadership, the sole legitimate representative of our people, have again posed the question of Palestine to the international community on the grounds that it is the national cause of a people entitled to liberation, self-determination, and independence.

The question of Palestine occupied a central position in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Peace, security, and stability in the Middle East cannot be secured unless this conflict is resolved.

Then came the blessed intifadah, with its popular and democratic depth, as a creative continuation of the Palestinian national struggle. It has constituted a distinct phase which has left its imprint on the whole world and reverberated around it. It has consolidated international recognition of our people's rights and of the PLO, which has always and immediately put such international support and polarization to use.

Thus, our National Council convened its 19th session and launched the Palestinian peace initiative, and the historic birth of the state of Palestine was proclaimed on 15 November 1988.

The world had welcomed our peace initiative through the resolutions of the UN General Assembly in its 43rd session, which was held in Geneva. Also, most countries recognized the state of Palestine and established diplomatic and political relations with it.

Despite the international welcome with which the Palestinian initiative and the historic speech by the president of the state of Palestine, brother Yasir 'Arafat, who demonstrated to the whole world our wish for a just peace, was met—thus for the first time the United States announced the opening of an official dialogue with the PLO—the Israeli policy of stubbornness and pressure led to the failure of all initiatives and peaceful efforts, bringing them down a dead-end street.

Afterwards, there came regional and international developments, most prominent of which was the Gulf war and the changes that occurred in the socialist bloc. This resulted in a substantial change in the balance of power. Thus, the cold war came to an end, and the features of a new age in international relations began to develop, especially in the field of U.S.-Soviet relations and cooperation between the two nations to resolve regional conflicts and problems peacefully.

The PLO has closely monitored the course of events in the world and their effect on the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. If the Palestinian people have had their homeland usurped as a result of the prejudices of the old world order, it is impermissible, according to any logic, that they be denied these rights in a phase witnessing the emergence of the new world order that raises slogans of democracy, human rights, and the sanctity of peoples' right to self-determination.

The current situation requires us to deal with it in the spirit of political responsibility and national realism and to examine the new regional and international developments. This situation also requires us to learn the lessons and experience from the popular intifadah that has turned the aim of Palestinian independence into a feasible program.

In harmony with the Palestinian initiative proposed in 1989 and with international and Arab legitimacy, the PLO has dealt positively and effectively with international and peaceful ideas, proposals, and initiatives that relied on international legality. The PLO also welcomed the positive elements mentioned in the declaration of U.S. President George Bush and the positions of the EEC, the Soviet Union, the Nonaligned Movement states, and other international quarters.

The PLO, which had welcomed the current peaceful efforts and initiatives and dealt with them positively, including the call launched by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev for convening a peace conference related to settling the conflict in the Middle East, believes that the success of the efforts aimed at holding the peace conference requires the continuation of work with the other sides so as to achieve the following foundations:

1. The peace conference should rely on international legitimacy and its resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and should undertake to implement them. These resolutions secure a full Israeli withdrawal from Arab and Palestinian occupied territories, including sacred Jerusalem; the realization of the land-for-peace exchange principle; and the national and political rights of the Palestinian people.

2. It must be stressed that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of occupied Palestinian territory and that what applies to the rest of the occupied territories applies to it, as stipulated by the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations.

3. Halting settlement in the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, is an indispensable necessity to start the peace process, and international guarantees must be provided to achieve that.

4. The PLO, as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, has the right to form the Palestinian delegation from within and outside the homeland, including Jerusalem, and to define the formula of their participation in the peace process on an equitable basis and in a way that stresses its authority.

5. Arab positions should be coordinated to ensure the realization of a comprehensive settlement, excluding unilateral solutions, in accordance with the resolutions of Arab summits.

6. The connection between the stages of the settlement toward reaching a comprehensive settlement should be ensured according to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The PLO, which starts from these bases and premises on the peace efforts, aims to accomplish the following:

1. The right to self-determination must be secured for our Palestinian people in a way that guarantees the right to freedom and national independence.

2. There must be a full Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab lands occupied in 1967, including Holy Jerusalem.

3. The problem of Palestinian refugees driven out of their homeland by force and against their will must be resolved, in accordance with UN resolutions, especially Resolution 194, issued by the UN General Assembly.

4. Any provisional arrangements must include the right of our people to sovereignty of land, water, natural resources, and all political and economic affairs.

5. International protection for the Palestinian people, in preparation for the exercise of the right to self-determination, must be provided.

6. Full guarantees must be provided for an effort to remove the existing settlements by declaring them illegal, in accordance with the resolutions of international law, including UN Security Council Resolution No. 465.

The National Council charges the Executive Committee to continue current efforts to provide the best conditions for guaranteeing the success of the peace process in accordance with the resolution of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. However, the committee will submit the results to the Central Council to make a final decision in light of the supreme national interest of our people.

The PLO, which in the previous phase made all possible efforts to propel the peace process, hopes that the other parties, especially the United States and the USSR, will also make efforts to help ease the obstacles placed by Israel before this ongoing political process and to leave the door open for a return to the UN Security Council so as to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Working toward the achievement of our national objectives in the next phase and toward facing up to obstacles marring our struggle requires the consolidation and entrenchment of national unity in various fields. It requires developing the contribution of all national forces, bodies, and personalities inside and outside the occupied homeland—along with the political leadership of the PLO—to all issues related to our people's future and the ongoing political process, and to finding the appropriate formula for achieving this purpose.

In this respect, the PNC calls for increasing the activities and role of the PLO Central Council in monitoring and implementing the resolutions of the National Council as a way of consolidating democracy and its practice. The council considers promoting the intifadah and consolidating its popular and democratic character and the participation of our entire people in backing and supporting it to be the real guarantee for securing the political and national objectives in the next phase of our national struggle.

In this respect, the Council addresses its struggle greetings to the masses of the brave intifadah and stresses the consolidation of the role and prestige of the Unified National Command of the Intifadah, the development of its struggle wings, the continuation of the formation of cadres, and the setting up of supreme sectorial councils.

The Council reaffirms that the protection and support of the intifadah and the provision of all requirements for its development are at the forefront of Palestinian national action.

The Council extends greetings to our heroic prisoners in the detention centers of Zionist occupation and to our brave wounded who are watching over the path of the intifadah, which was built by our pure martyrs.

The National Council extends its struggle greetings to the masses of our steadfast people in Galilee, the Triangle, Negev, and the coast, and reaffirms its appreciation of their struggle in defense of their rights against the policies of persecution and segregation and their active support for the brave intifadah.

The council also affirms that guaranteeing the realization of the objectives of our people and Arab nation, through the peace process, in order to secure a full Israeli withdrawal from Arab and Palestinian lands, and to guarantee the right of return, the self-determination to our people, and the setting up of a Palestinian state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital, require the restoration of inter-Arab solidarity in order to protect the Arab future in light of current international and regional changes.

In this respect, the council invites the five Arab states concerned in the peace process to achieve the highest levels of political and diplomatic coordination between them, in order to face up to the requirements of the coming stage and to reinforce the Arab negotiating position, so as to guarantee the realization of a comprehensive solution at all levels and prevent any separate solutions at the expense of the national rights of our people and the rights of our Arab nation.

The National Council invites all the international community to promote its support and backing to the cause of the Palestinian people and its just struggle, and to enhance its resistance in the occupied homeland. The Council appreciates the role of the ECC member states, and invites them to contribute effectively to providing conditions for success for the peace process on a balanced basis and in accordance with international law, in

order to protect international security and stability in the Middle East and Mediterranean region.

The Council expresses its appreciation for, and tribute to, the positions of His Holiness the Pope and the Vatican in supporting the rights of our people. The National Council expresses its appreciation for the role of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the nonaligned states, the African states, and the Islamic states organization in backing the Palestinian cause, and their adherence to the bases of international law in resolving the conflict in the region.

The council studied the relations of the PLO at the Arab level and made the following resolutions:

—The PNC salutes, at its 20th session, fraternal Algeria—the president, the government, and the people—for harboring the cause of Palestine, playing host to the PNC sessions, and continuously supporting the rights of our people since the flag of freedom and independence was hoisted in the Algeria of 1.5 million martyrs.

—The Council salutes, at its 20th session, fraternal Tunisia—the president, the government, and people—for their warm shelter to the leadership of the PLO, and for their bearing a great deal of sacrifice that has reached the level of the mixing of Tunisian and Palestinian blood. Our eternal gratitude to Tunisia for its warm hospitality and fraternal solidarity.

—The Council thanks, in particular, His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, for his continuous efforts and endeavors in supporting the rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO, and for the support extended by the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco to the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland.

—The Palestinian National Council expresses, at its 20th session, its appreciation for the continuous support given by the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah to the masses of the brave Palestinian intifadah.

—The PNC salutes the Arab Maghreb Union member states for their continuous support for the cause of Palestine and the PLO, and it appreciates the vital role played by these states on the road to recovering inter-Arab solidarity.

—The PNC expresses, at its 20th session, its deep solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people in their suffering, and it asks the international community to immediately move to put an end to the economic boycott which endangers the lives of Iraqi children, women, and men because of the lack of medicine and food. The PNC urges the masses of the Arab nation and the fraternal Arab states to extend a helping hand and support to fraternal Iraq. It also calls for an end to all forms of interference in its domestic affairs.

—The PNC also calls for serious and continuous action to retrieve inter-Arab solidarity between the sons of the Arab nation. The PNC salutes the Palestinian-Jordanian brotherhood and calls for its strengthening and deepening in all spheres. It confirms its previous resolutions on the special and distinguished relations linking the two fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

It calls for the continuation and reinforcement of coordination and cooperation between the PLO and sister Jordan in all fields.

—The PNC affirms its decisions on building future relations on the basis of a confederation between Jordan and Palestine.

—The PNC salutes sister Lebanon and hails the sacrifices of the Lebanese people in support of the Palestinian cause, and wishes success to the procession of the Lebanese national accord that aims to restore Lebanon's unity and sovereignty and ensures the authority of legitimacy on its territory. It also stresses full support in the battle of the liberation of the south from Israeli occupation toward the implementation of Resolution 425, which stipulates an Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

—The Council calls for the entrenchment of fraternity between the peoples of Lebanon and Palestine through the organization of Lebanese-Palestinian relations on a solid basis that ensures political, struggle, and social rights to the Palestinian people in Lebanon and provides security to the Palestinian camps in facing up to Israeli aggressions and on the basis of close cooperation with the legitimate Lebanese authority.

—The National Council stresses the necessity of completing the dialogue between the Lebanese government and the PLO with a view of tackling Lebanese-Palestinian relations positively in all fields for the mutual interests of the two fraternal peoples.

—The National Council calls upon the five Arab countries directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict—Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine—to achieve the highest level of political and diplomatic coordination to face up to the requirements of the coming political stage, and to strengthen the Arab negotiating position. The coordination between these fraternal countries should reach the summit level.

—The National Council refers with appreciation to the special significance of the holding of two sessions for the Arab foreign ministers within the framework of the Arab League on the land of sister Egypt, which continues to play an effective and fundamental role in reviving Arab solidarity and realizing a unified Arab position.

—The Council also alludes to the position of sister Egypt vis-a-vis the inalienable national rights of our people and her constant efforts to safeguard those rights.

—The Council calls for continuing the work toward the reinforcement of Syrian-Palestinian relations and the

promotion of coordination between sister Syria and the PLO towards serving the mutual national and pan-Arab interests and facing up to the challenges.

—The PNC appreciates the firm and continued support provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over long years for our Palestinian people and the PLO, and appreciates its continued hospitality and the facilitating of the employment and residence of the sons of our people on its territories. It hopes that the support will continue for the blessed intifadah, which is facing a war of starvation and attempts to destroy the economic structure waged by the Israeli occupation authorities against our people.

—The National Council salutes the peoples of fraternal Sudan and Yemen and their leaders and governments, and expresses its gratitude on behalf of the Palestinian people for the support to our people and hospitality to our forces being provided by our brothers in Sudan and Yemen despite their difficult circumstances.

—The PNC urges the international community to deal with the issue of Jewish colonizing emigration in a way that ensures that Israel does not use it to serve its objectives of expansion, colonization, and depriving our people of the right to decide their destiny in the territory of their homeland. The Council believes that the continuation of this emigration, in accordance with Israeli plans to intensify settlement in our occupied land, constitutes a direct obstacle, a danger threatening the future of peace in the region, and a violation of the Palestinian people's rights and international conventions.

—The PNC draws attention to the attempts and endeavors currently under way in some international circles to repeal the UN General Assembly's resolution on Zionism as a form of racism. The Council urges the Executive Committee to work with the friendly and fraternal states to face up to these attempts and to abort them.

—The Council salutes the struggle of all the peoples aspiring for equality, justice, spreading democracy, and achieving equality in international relations. In this respect, the Council appreciates the struggle of the people of South Africa, under the leadership of the ANC [African National Congress] and the struggling leader Nelson Mandela, for equality and the removal of racism. The Council expresses its full solidarity with the people of South Africa in their just struggle in confronting racism and against the acts of sabotage perpetrated by the hostile instruments of racism. The PNC stresses the need to further give all forms of backing and support to the struggling and friendly people of South Africa.

—The Council also underlines its support and backing for and its solidarity with the African frontline states in the face of aggression and racism.

—The Council addresses greetings to the UN special committee to ensure the exercise of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, to international nongovernmental fraternal and friendly institutions, and to the correspondents and news media that have stood and are standing on the side of the intifadah and the struggle of our people.

—The PNC reiterates its commitment to the UN resolutions that affirm the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, colonialism, and apartheid, and their right to struggle for their independence. The Council declares once again its rejection of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism.

—Finally, the PNC addresses greetings, compassion, and love to our steadfast and patient Palestinian people, both inside our occupied land and in the diaspora, and to the masses of our Arab nation and its influential forces for their positions supporting and backing the jihad of our Palestinian people and their national, inalienable rights. The Council urges them to stand firmly in the face of the conspiracies hatched by the enemies of our Arab nation in order to preserve our Arab nation, its existence, pride, dignity, and national security.

—The Council also addresses its greetings and appreciation to all the friends and the peace- and freedom-loving noble forces for their honorable positions on the side of the just cause of our people.

It is revolution until victory. Peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

Qaddumi New Foreign Minister, Political Head

LD2909181791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee, in its first meeting held yesterday following the conclusion of the Palestine National Council session, has decided to appoint brother Faruq Qaddumi [Abu al-Lutf] as head of the PLO Political Department and foreign minister of the state of Palestine, with the provision that the other tasks will be distributed among members of the PLO Executive Committee.

MENA Lists New Executive Committee Members

NC2809072991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, 28 Sep (MENA)—Early today the Palestine National Council ratified the Palestine Central Council's 30 March 1989 resolution on Yasir 'Arafat's election as president of the state of Palestine.

At the conclusion of its 20th session, held in the Algerian capital, the PNC elected the members of the PLO's new Executive Committee. Yasir 'Arafat was elected chairman and the number of committee members was increased from 14 to 18.

Herewith the new PLO Executive Committee:

Yasir 'Arafat: Chairman.

Members: Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf); Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin); Jamal al-Surani; 'Abdallah Hurani; Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi; Shafiq al-Hut; Taysir Khalid; Samir Ghawshah; 'Ali Ishaq; Juwayd al-Ghusayn; 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh; Mahmud Darwish; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Iliya Khuri; Yasir 'Amru; Mahmud Isma'il; Sulayman al-Najjab

The PNC amended the clause on the number of committee members.

Session Concludes; Declaration Issued

LD2809084791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] The Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament in exile, concluded its session in Algiers late last night by renewing its confidence in PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and giving the green light to Palestinian participation in the peace conference and the formation of a new leadership. Mohsen Slimane reports on the most important resolutions of the PNC's session in Algiers:

[Slimane] The deliberations over the political statement were not generally as heated as we had expected. When the political statement was read, it was noticed that a majority of PNC members had approved it, with the exception of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which opposed it. Mustafa Abu-'Ali, speaking for the PFLP, said that the paragraph concerning participation in the peace conference is formulated in such a way as to imply that the PNC approves of the participation and the word "but" in the paragraph will thus be lost.

The paragraph, which aroused somewhat heated debate, states that the PLO, which has welcomed the peaceful efforts and endeavors and dealt with them positively, including the calls made by Bush and Gorbachev, believes that, in order to ensure the success of the efforts to convene the peace conference, the dialogue should continue with all parties.

PFLP representative Mustafa Abu-'Ali took the view that in this form this paragraph is in response to the Baker plan, and thereupon he proposed that it be corrected by an alternative draft. This draft would declare rejection of the peace conference, and call at the same time for the convocation of a peace conference based on international legitimacy, with the participation of the PLO in an independent manner and on an equal footing with the other parties.

Finally, after some deliberation, the whole paragraph which deals with the bases of the peace initiative and comprises the following points was put to the vote:

Adherence to international legitimacy, including resolutions 242 and 383;

The declaration of Jerusalem as an indivisible part of the occupied territories;

An end to settlement in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem;

The PLO's right, as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, to form the Palestinian delegation and determine its manner of participation;

The solution of the question of Palestinian refugees in accordance with UN resolution 194.

This paragraph dealing with the peace initiative was approved by 256 votes and opposed by 68 votes out of the total of 336.

We wish to add that the new PLO Executive Committee consists of 18 members. The names of leaders of some well-known groups did not appear among them; they were replaced by other figures who are believed to be able to deal more effectively with the new stage. These include 'Ali Ishaq of the Palestine Liberation Front, which is led by Abu-al-'Abbas, Taysir Khalid of the Nayif Hawatimah wing of the Democratic Front, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh of the the dissident wing of the Democratic Front.

The well-known names on the new Executive Committee are: Yasir 'Arafat, Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Mahmud Darwish, Shafiq al-Hut, Yasir 'Umar, and Samir Buja.

Statements made to the press by leaders of the various groups after the conclusion of the session indicated some satisfaction with the formula dealing with the peace conference in the political statement. The PFLP's Dr. George Habash, however, stated that this formula says "yes" to the peace conference but, at the same time, links participation in the conference with certain conditions.

Nayif Hawatimah said he hopes that the PLO Executive Committee will abide by and respect the PNC resolutions.

Asked about the convocation of the peace conference in October and whether the PLO will participate in it, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-Rabbuh] We hope the conference will be held as soon as possible. But first we want there to be favorable conditions for its convocation; namely, we must obtain answers to the points we have raised—the questions of settlements, Palestinian representation, and Jerusalem.

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] invitation to the PLO.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The PLO, through the PNC, has decided to participate with a Palestinian delegation from within

the homeland and outside it. The PLO will determine the appropriate form of participation when we receive the invitation to the peace conference. [end recording]

[Shimane] Thus the PNC meeting in Algeria has not closed the door on the peace efforts in the Middle East, but has recommended continued dialogue with the parties concerned.

It was learned today from Palestinian sources in Algiers that Faysal al-Husaynt and Hanan 'Ashrawi, who are among the most prominent loyal supporters of the PLO in the occupied territories, will leave within the next 48 hours for Washington to resume dialogue with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker with a view to finding ways to ensure further progress in the peace process.

What calls for attention, however, is the statement of President Mikhail Gorbachev that he doubts whether it will be possible to hold the peace conference, as scheduled, in October. The Soviet foreign minister stated in Moscow that his country does not object to the resumption of its diplomatic relations with Israel even if the peace conference is not held.

Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi has stated that Algeria is prepared to participate in the peace conference provided it will lead to a just peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat Makes Appeal to Bush

LD2809190891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, has addressed an important message to U.S. President George Bush urging him to treat the Palestinian people and the resolutions of international legitimacy in the same way as former U.S. President Truman treated UN Security Council Resolutions 181 and 194, which constituted the basis for the U.S. recognition of Israel. This was stated in the concluding address delivered by brother President Abu-Ammar at the end of the 20th session of the Palestine National Council in the Algerian capital at an early hour this morning in the presence of Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, National People's Assembly Chairman Abdelaziz Belkhadem, and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Algeria.

In the course of his statement to the PNC on the situation in the Arab region, brother president Abu-Ammar said that Arab solidarity had to be regained despite what had taken place, and that the past and the differences resulting from the Gulf war and leading to the destruction of two Arab countries had to be forgotten. He pointed out that this had great social and economic repercussions on our people and their cause.

The brother president urged leaders of Arab Maghreb countries to establish the lever that would bring back good health to the Arab body and to clear the air in order to reestablish a united stance to proceed toward the united objective, namely, the interest of the Arab nation and its national issues—foremost of which is the Palestine issue.

The brother president moved on to talk about the U.S. plan for a peaceful settlement. He praised the results of the meeting between King Hassan II of Morocco and U.S. President George Bush in Washington, during which President Bush, in mentioning the Palestinian people, pronounced the words "national political rights" for the first time. Brother Abu-Ammar said the PLO was dealing positively with the peace initiative, and that it has made efforts to pave the way and refrain from putting obstacles in its way. He said the PLO welcomed the initiatives of the U.S. and Soviet presidents, while stressing the need for the implementation of international legitimacy on the basis of unified criteria and the rejection of double standards, because international legitimacy could not be divided up and must not be implemented fully somewhere and partially elsewhere. He urged President Bush to take that into account by following the example of one his predecessors, former U.S. President Truman, who, when asked about the basis of his country's recognition of Israel, said it was in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 181 and 194, which called for the establishment of an Israeli state and a Palestinian state.

The brother president added that the translation of the actual word "people" means the land, rights, and independence—all of which are the constants our people adhere to, as much as it shows their desire in achieving peace. Peace, he said, is the Palestinian peace based upon the national political rights, which qualify our people to occupy their position on the map of international legitimacy and raise their flag over the minarets of Jerusalem.

Our people, he said, and the Palestine Liberation Organization reject blackmail and the Israeli conditions. The international community should bring its pressure to bear upon Israel to make it respond to the logic of peace to redress the historical injustice inflicted on our people since the decision on dividing Palestine.

He warned that the new international order should not be at the expense of the peoples of the Third World, nor their interests and their causes. He recalled a remark by late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandi, in which he warned against inflicting more injustice and oppression on the poor peoples.

The brother president concluded his short and important address saying: We reject the Israeli conditions, and accept peace of the brave and not capitulation. The Palestinian peace initiative, announced by the Palestinian National Council at its last session, is a significant indication of the Palestinian peaceful option, which will continue to be based upon the constants of our full rights.

Brothers, we will broadcast to you the text of the address tomorrow, God willing, in our daily program.

Calls For Renewed Dialogue With U.S.

NC2909071091 Paris AFP in English 2330 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, Sept 29 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat called on Saturday for a dialogue between the PLO and the United States to be re-started, noting that a PLO leader whose presence had caused a rift with Washington eighteen months ago had now resigned.

Speaking at a press conference after a meeting here of the Palestine National Council [PNC], the movement's effective parliament, 'Arafat said he was "waiting for the reaction of the U.S. Administration, and hoping it would restart the dialogue."

"The ball is in the court of the Americans, the Israelis, the European Community, and the United Nations," 'Arafat added. "Everything depends on their ability to impose peace."

The PNC meeting on Friday mandated the Palestinian leadership to pursue negotiations on a proposed Middle East peace conference, and also heard of the resignation from the PLO Executive Council of faction leader Abu-al-'Abbas.

Abu-al-'Abbas is the leader of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], a PLO grouping which in 1985 hijacked an Italian cruise liner in the Mediterranean, killing an elderly Jewish-American passenger.

The U.S. Administration broke off a nascent dialogue with the PLO in May last year after the PLF was also implicated in an abortive commando raid on an Israeli beach.

At several points during the press conference, 'Arafat stressed that the PLO had "chosen the path of peace." "We have stretched out a hand for a peace of the brave, and not a peace of capitulation," he said. "The credibility of the United States is on the line," the PLO leader said. "We are asking only for what President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, and National Security Adviser Scowcroft have said," he added.

Brent Scowcroft is head of the U.S. National Security Council.

'Arafat said Abu-al-'Abbas had in fact proferred his resignation after the abortive raid on the Israeli coast, but said he had told the PLF leader that only the PNC was empowered to accept it.

Turning to the Palestinian terms for participation in a future peace conference, 'Arafat said a halt to the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, which included East Jerusalem, was a "demand." The building of settlements was "an illegal act" that was "contrary to United Nations resolutions," he said. He also said there was no precedent in international negotiations that allowed Israel to demand the names of its Palestinian interlocutors in advance of the planned peace conference.

Israel has said it will not negotiate with any Palestinians from East Jerusalem or from the PLO.

'Arafat also reiterated a denial that two prominent West Bank Palestinians who have been meeting with Secretary of State Baker were present in Algiers on Wednesday.

Israel has been angered by reports that Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi had attended the PNC in defiance of an Israeli ban on contacts between residents of the territories under its control and the PLO.

"We cannot remain in that mindset which has been overtaken by modern democracy," the PLO leader told reporters. "If Israel doesn't have a De Gaulle, it could at least have a De Klerk," 'Arafat said.

'Arafat also expressed regret that the United Nations had been kept in the role of "silent observers" at the future peace conference. "We didn't want them to be observers, but active participants," he said.

He also said the PLO "demands an important, essential, effective role for the Europeans" in the conference, which is expected to start next month.

(General De Gaulle, the late French leader, is revered in many Third World countries for having granted independence to most of his country's colonies in the early 1960's.

(President Frederik De Klerk of South Africa has moved in the past year to dismantle the apartheid system and bring the black majority into the political mainstream).

Praises Session, U.S. Peace Role

LD2909203291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday afternoon held a news conference at the Palais de Nations in Algiers for Arab and foreign journalists. He spoke about his political perceptions of the coming stage and offered an explanation of the PNC's political communique. The following are the main points:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] We are proud of the democratic way in which the deliberations of our Palestinian National Council were conducted. It has also proved that we, inside our occupied territory and in the diaspora, are one people, one leadership, and one future.

We have chosen the road of peace, despite the Israeli opposition and the U.S. disagreement with the initiative which we proposed in 1988. Despite that, our congress, as I have told you, has adopted the road of peace. [end recording]

Answering a question about his view of the future, brother president leader Abu-Ammar said:

[Begin recording] I want to say that the ball now is in the other court. The ball is now with the U.S. Administration, with the co-chairman. The ball is now in the Israeli court. The ball is now with Europe. The ball is now with the United Nations. How much do they support the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region? We have extended a hand, as I said yesterday, for peace—the peace of the brave and not capitulation, and not giving in to the Israeli conditions which are rejected by our people, by the Arab states, and by the Arab nation.

The credibility of the United States is now at stake. Is there a single standard for dealing with issues of international legitimacy and international resolutions, or is there a double standard? [end recording]

Answering a question about what is required now from the United States, brother president leader Abu-Ammar replied:

[Begin recording] As President Bush said in his statement after his meeting with King Hassan II, within the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy, and as he also stated in his initiative on March this year: land for peace, Resolutions 242 and 338, a withdrawal, including withdrawal from holy Jerusalem, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. Naturally, on this basis we hope there will be an agreement on the points which disagree with Israeli demands.

America says Jerusalem is an occupied territory. We say Jerusalem is an occupied territory. The Americans say the settlements are illegal, illegal. And when we demand a halt to the settlement, it means halting an illegal action contravening the resolutions of the United Nations, resolutions which the U.S. Administration has voted for. That is why the U.S. Administration says the settlements are illegal and an obstacle on the road to peace.

There is also the question of the Palestinian representation.

I would like to ask: With whom do they intend to make peace? Is it with Qatar? [Words indistinct] With whom do they intend to make peace? If it was not with the Palestinians, then with whom? [three-minute break in reception]

Our contacts are continuous at all levels and domains. There is also a joint Soviet-Palestinian committee that meets every now and then, alternatively in Moscow and in Tunis. The latest meeting I had was with an envoy from the Soviet leadership in Tunis, namely the Soviet deputy foreign minister [not further identified]. [end recording]

Replying to a question about the European role in the peace conference, especially France, brother president leader Abu-Ammar said:

[Begin recording] We ought to extend a special thanks to the French position expressed more than once by President Mitterrand, insisting on an international conference, the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, and on the participation of the PLO in all peace steps. Also for Minister Dumas' speech delivered 72 hours ago at the United Nations, which was brilliant in explaining the French position. Therefore, I extend gratitude and greetings to President Mitterrand, to my friend Dumas, and to the French people for this clear stand vis-a-vis the just cause of the Palestinian people.

We insist that the Europeans have an important, essential, and effective role in the peace conference. We will not be satisfied with their role of an observer; we want them to play the role of a participant. We have said this several times. [end recording]

With regard to his perceptions of the role of the United Nations in the peace march, brother president leader Abu-Ammar replied:

[Begin recording] Regrettably, America is still looking at international legitimacy through a double standard; one standard in the Gulf and another in Palestine, and yet a third in the Baltic states.

We insist on an effective role for the United Nations. Regrettably, the American side has responded to the Israeli blackmail to make the role of the United Nations ineffective, a mute role.

We also insist on implementing international legitimacy and demand international legitimacy from the co-chairman. [end recording]

'Arafat Leaves Algiers, Issues Press Statement

LD2909094691 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Sep (APS)—Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine, left Algiers yesterday evening after attending meetings of the 20th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] which convened at the Club des Pins 23 to 28 September. In a statement to the press, 'Arafat thanked the Algerian people and government and President Bendjedid for hosting the PNC meetings. He also said that the Palestinians are participating in the peace conference on the basis of Palestinian and not Israeli conditions, adding: "We have come out of this session with positive results in complete democracy." Concluding, 'Arafat said: "We will continue our struggle until the Palestinian flag flies over Jerusalem."

He was seen off at the Houari Boumedienne Airport by Abdelaziz Balkhadem, speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly, and Abu al-'Izz [Mundhir al-Dajani], Palestinian ambassador to Algeria.

Stresses Unified Arab Position

JN2909160591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1505 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Muhammad Nuwayran "this afternoon"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nuwayran] Now that the Palestine National Council has accepted the principle of participation in the peace conference, what are your expectations? Do you expect new contacts with the United States concerning this participation?

['Arafat] This important PNC decision, no doubt, reflects the council's desire to facilitate Secretary Baker's moves for peace after Presidents Gorbachev and Bush called for a peace conference on the basis of President Bush's March plan, in which he focused on the main points—namely, land for peace; Resolutions 242 and 338, including withdrawal from Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem; and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

On our part, we highlighted certain principles concerning the participation. These can be summed up in the following: First, holy Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine. The city has sacred Islamic and Christian significance; it is the first of the two qiblas and the third holiest shrine, the city to where Muhammad, my God's peace and prayers be on him, made his night journey, and it is the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him. Second, the importance of halting Israeli settlements. This issue poses a threat not only to Palestinian security and Palestinian land—which is daily violated and swallowed up to establish settlements for new settlers—but also to the entire Arab nation. We still hear Israeli Government officials talking about Greater Israel. Third, the rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right to self-determination.

The PNC resolution gives new momentum to our blessed intifadah, which is the guarantee for a just peace and a guarantee for our victory, God willing. On this occasion, brother Muhammad, I would wholeheartedly like to point out our brotherly relations, coordination, and high level of joint action with fraternal Jordan.

[Nuwayran] What about the next contacts to coordinate with the United States concerning the proposed guarantees?

['Arafat] Before the Palestinians and Arabs coordinate with the United States, they should, more importantly, coordinate among themselves. We, therefore, are eager to continue fraternal coordination with Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and our brothers in the Gulf, Arab Maghreb, Yemen, Sudan and so on. Without this cohesive Arab position, we can never, as individual Palestinians or Jordanians, confront the difficult challenges. We must be united and cohesive to face these challenges. This is necessary to bring about a comprehensive solution taking into consideration the legitimate political and national Palestinian rights and the interests, national security, and future of the Arab nation.

[Nuwayran] What is your comment on a proposal to hold a summit meeting for the Arab countries involved in the peace conference?

['Arafat] We, in fact, have been discussing this with many of our brothers. This is very important. We must coordinate our positions, not only in an ordinary way, but we should use all our experiences to overcome this challenge on all levels.

[Nuwayran] Thank you, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

['Arafat] Thank you.

Reaction to PNC Resolutions Reported

PNSF, PFLP-GC Critical

NC2809170791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, leader of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF], said that the initial reading of the Palestine National Council resolutions indicate that these resolutions do not fulfill the minimum standards which the PNSF believes are necessary for achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has said that the PNC resolutions were drawn up to satisfy the U.S. Administration and do not reflect the will of the Palestinian people. The spokesman said that these resolutions undermine the legal and historical basis for the Palestinian people's right to their land.

Fatah's Abu-Musa Rejects 'All' Decisions

LD2809201391 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Damascus, Sept. 28, IRNA—In a message to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Saturday, a top Palestinian guerrilla commander Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Muragha] rejected all decisions taken by the Palestine National Council.

In part of the letter, Abu-Musa, leader of the breakaway Fatah movement, said the firm stance taken by the leader and other officials of the Islamic Republic towards the so-called international peace conference proves their deep concern for the cause of Palestine.

The Palestinian people, following the guidelines of the late Imam Khomeyni who called Israel a cancerous tumor, are determined to continue their struggle against the Zionists, Colonel Abu-Musa said.

Al-Musawi, Jibril Contact Opposition

NC3009082491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi met with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], yesterday in a meeting also attended by Haj Husayn Khalil, head of Hizballah's Political Bureau, and PFLP-GC Central Committee members.

Following the meeting, Jibril told reporters that the meeting was held to exchange views on the Palestine National Council resolutions and how to confront this conspiracy in the political, media, and popular levels. He said that contacts are under way in this respect with all the parties opposed to the liquidation of the Palestinian issue.

Jibril was asked about Hizballah-PFLP-GC coordination. He said that both Hizballah and the PFLP-GC believe in the continuation of the armed struggle and that the road to Palestine does not pass through Washington or Moscow, but through jihad and struggle.

Jibril said he regrets the PNC resolutions that were passed because they prove once again that 80 percent of the land of Palestine will be abandoned through the recognition of Resolution 242. He noted that the land of Palestine is not the property of 'Arafat or any command; it is an inalienable Islamic trust.

Jibril said he hopes the conference on Palestine, which is expected to be held in Tehran, will rally the sympathy of 1 billion Muslims and make a clear and unambiguous stand on how the Muslims view the ongoing liquidation conspiracy.

'Abbas al-Musawi emphasized that the current stage requires all our efforts and resources to be mobilized because now is the time of one of the most serious conspiracies against our fundamental cause, the Palestinian cause. He noted that what happened at the PNC and what will happen at the settlement conference are at least a total abdication of our fundamental cause; that is, Palestine. He affirmed that this is a prelude to the establishment of a Greater Israel.

Regarding the Lebanese presidential delegation's trip to New York and its results, the Hizballah secretary general emphasized that escalating the jihad operations will be the answer to all new agreements. He noted that those who met and signed agreements with George Bush do not surprise us with such steps because they have always placed themselves in a antagonistic position, demanding a halt to resistance.

Al-Musawi said that all agreements that weaken the resistance front constitute part of the plot against our nation, and there is no choice for us but to face these plots by all means.

Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has received Brother Ahmad Jibril and reviewed with him the latest developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

Al-Musawi Says PNC 'Betrayed' Palestine

LD3009111991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] In the wake of the acceptance of America's peace plan by the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the intensification of the moves by Washington and Tel Aviv to force the Islamic uprising of the Palestine people into a compromise, the national and Islamic Palestinian and Lebanese groups announced in a joint stance that a new wave of jihad operations against the Zionist regime will start soon.

At the end of yesterday's meetings between Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command; 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of the revolutionary movement of Lebanon's Hizballah; and Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], leader of the Fatah Movement, the leaders of these groups condemned the U.S. peace plan and stressed the need for continuing the intifadah of the Muslim people of Palestine until full destruction of the Zionist regime.

In an interview with reporters, 'Abbas al-Musawi termed the regional situation as dangerous, and he said: Good coordination and cooperation took place between the Palestinian and Lebanese groups so as to continue the jihad operations against the Zionist regime until the liberation of Jerusalem.

Ahmad Jibril told the reporters: By its humiliating acceptance of America's peace plan, the PNC has betrayed the sacred aspirations of the Muslim nation of Palestine. Referring to the thousands of Palestinians detained in prisons of the Zionist regime, he added: As long as the regime which occupies Jerusalem refuses to release thousands of detained Muslim Palestinians, none of the Western hostages will be released.

Islamic Jihad Official Attacks Baker's 'Plot'

JN2909104991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Sep (INA)—Dr. Nadir As'ad al-Tamimi, official spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis and mufti of the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA], has stressed that Baker's project for a settlement is only a link in the plot concocted by U.S. imperialism to appease the expansionist policy of the Zionist entity.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Algiers, he said that peace cannot be reached from a weak and feeble position. This is the status quo of the Arab nation today

following the barbaric aggression against Iraq—the bastion of the nation and the shield that always defends its crucial issues; foremost being the question of Palestine.

Dr. al-Tamimi has stressed that the aggression against Iraq and its results represent a major episode in the plot against the central issues of the Arab nation. Baker's project falls within this scheme now that the United States and the Zionist entity have guaranteed the surrender and defeatism of some Arab regimes, and the slumber and silence of others to what is happening around them.

The PLA mufti called on the masses of the Arab nation to rally around the trend of struggle and jihad, and to adhere to the principles that are based on the belief in the inevitability of the victory of the strugglers and the need to continue the march, no matter how large the sacrifices, because the dignity of the nation can only be entrenched through a strong will, firm positions, and manhood in facing the challenge. This is what is required of the masses of our Arab nation today, away from surrender of the defeatists.

Contacts To Defuse PLO-U.S. Crisis Detailed

JN2909204491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from New York carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The statements made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that he does not intend to meet with the two Palestinian interlocutors, Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, in Washington were about to create a U.S.-Palestinian crisis that could have jeopardized Palestinian participation in the proposed peace conference. Quick and intensive contacts held, however, by U.S. officials and the two Palestinian interlocutors in London managed to contain the crisis, despite the fact that the Baker statements harmed Palestinian efforts.

During these contacts, U.S. officials indicated that Baker, even though he agreed in principle to meet with al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi after the conclusion of the Palestine National Council [PNC] meetings, meant that there was not in fact an agreement on a specific appointment. This is what Baker intended when he said that he was not canceling a specific meeting, the U.S. officials added.

Sources informed on the content of these contacts added that Baker explained to the two Palestinian interlocutors that Washington wants to avoid a confrontation with Israel, and that it also does not want to provide it with a procedural excuse, as some sources said, for withdrawing from the peace conference. The sources added that Baker affirmed to al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi that he would meet them soon, but not now, and not in Washington; and that the meeting will take place during his eighth tour of the region, which is expected to be made in mid-October.

The sources went on to say that Baker advised the two Palestinian interlocutors to take their time before returning to Jerusalem, and to give Washington some time to intervene with Israel to prevent it from taking punitive measures against them. The sources stated that Baker also advised the two Palestinian interlocutors to stop in Amman en route to Jerusalem to discuss the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the formation of which is urged by Washington as soon as possible, so that it could take part in the conference.

The sources quoted the two Palestinian interlocutors as saying that they are strongly indignant and frustrated by the U.S. position, and also as a result of the growing Israeli intransigence, especially in the wake of the PNC resolutions that Secretary Baker welcomed. The sources did not expect the two Palestinian interlocutors to stay in London for more than several days, after which they would return to Jerusalem in spite of the Israeli threats against them.

Bendjedid Receives 'Arafat, Executive Committee

LD2909180991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasar 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, and members of the newly formed PLO Executive Committee were received yesterday by brother President Chadli Bendjedid of the Republic of Algeria. President Bendjedid renewed Algeria's support to the Palestinian efforts and to the endeavors of the PLO toward the realization of a just peace in the Middle East, founded on the basis of Palestinian legitimate rights and reflected by the PNC political statement.

DFLP Official Cited on Efforts To Unify Front

JN3009083391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Sep 91 p 12

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpts] Algiers—Commenting on the results of the Palestine National Council [PNC] meetings, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that the political position encompassed in the PNC final statement on the peace conference and the current political movements underscores the victory of the realistic national policy which emanates from the pulse of the intifadah and the victory of the genuine Palestinian national and democratic unity. [passage omitted]

The PNC has witnessed extensive moves in which Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, Hasan Ibrahim [not further identified], the leaders of the Palestinian factions, and the members of the good offices committee which was established by the council to unify the front, participated with the aim of settling the disagreement between the front and Former Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah's group. Out of our concern for the national unity required by the current critical political stage of the Palestinian struggle, we

accepted an agreement proposed by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Hasan Ibrahim. This agreement was drawn up during a meeting of the Palestinian leadership shortly before the conclusion of the PNC meetings. This agreement includes the following:

—Two delegations under the name of the DFLP will be represented. Each delegation will have its own representative in the PLO Executive Committee.

—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Hasan Ibrahim would continue their efforts to unify the DFLP after the PNC meetings.

—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Hawatimah would commit themselves to having one representative in the Central Committee on the basis of the old representation if the efforts being made succeed.

Algeria

FIS Offices 'Stormed'; Leader Hachani Arrested

LD2709225791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] A little while ago the national radio received a copy of a statement issued by the Provisional National Executive Bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. According to the statement, security forces have arrested Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, official in charge of the FIS Provisional National Executive Bureau. The operation was carried out at 1820 this evening at the bureau's offices on Khalifah Boukhalfa Street after the offices were stormed by security forces.

The FIS statement was signed by Cheikh (Kabir Rabah), the official responsible for the political committee and foreign relations, who explained:

[Begin (Rabah) recording] Yet again, the authority's ill intentions have been revealed. After security was established and the ending of the state of siege was announced, we were taken by surprise when security forces—with their weapons drawn—surrounded and stormed the temporary offices of FIS on Khalifah Boukhalfa Street at 1820 Friday evening, and arrested Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, official in charge of the Provisional National Executive Bureau. We condemn this disgraceful behavior and hold the regime responsible for its consequences. [end recording]

The arrest of Cheikh Hachani was also reported by some media sources; however, the report remains unconfirmed by other sources.

Arrest of Hachani Not Confirmed

LD2809142291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Regarding yesterday's reports on the arrest of Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, official in charge of the Provisional National Executive Bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]: These reports have not been confirmed yet.

State of Siege Officially Lifted 29 Sep

LD2909090191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Excerpt] There is no longer a state of siege. It was lifted this morning in conformity with the president's recommendation. A few days ago during a meeting of the Higher Security Council, the head of state announced the lifting of the state of siege for today, Sunday 29 September. The decision is applauded by the political elite and the citizens. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa Welcomes Bush's Decision on Nuclear Weapons

NC2809172991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has welcomed U.S. President George Bush's unilateral decision to eliminate [takhalli] short-range nuclear weapons. He described this decision as a historic step, not only because of its great importance in the field of arms reduction and disarmament, but also because it was made unilaterally and without bargaining in order to give political momentum to the international efforts to establish a new world order removed from showdowns and conflicts.

Musa said this decision truly expresses the new spirit in international relations based on positive gestures and actions.

Musa, currently in New York, was commenting on the U.S. President's decision which was announced today.

Musa stressed that Egypt looks forward to positive international reaction to this step, especially from the other nuclear states, so that the world will take further important steps toward eliminating nuclear weapons.

Musa also expressed hope that this step will prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and will help eliminate the nuclear arsenal, especially in areas of conflict such as the Middle East.

Ghali Views Bush Plan

NC2909065291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations, has described U.S. President George Bush's statements on reducing world nuclear weapons as another step toward world peace.

In a statement yesterday, Ghali said Egypt has always advocated the reduction of all weapons of mass destruction and supported the establishment of areas free of these weapons. He noted that this step contributes to peace and is in line with Egypt's foreign policy and diplomacy, aiming to perpetuate world peace.

Mubarak, Gorbachev Grant News Conference

NC2709130191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 27 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said that the Palestinian problem transcends all Arab differences, noting that Egypt is holding consultations and coordinating with all the concerned parties on this matter. This came during the joint international news conference held by President Mubarak and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev following their talks today in Moscow.

President Mubarak noted the negative effect of the Gulf crisis on Arab action and voiced his belief that the restoration of Arab solidarity "requires time."

As for the role of the Soviet Union on the international scene, President Mubarak said the USSR is a superpower with international prestige.

Following are the details of the news conference:

President Mubarak started out by thanking President Gorbachev. Mubarak said: I thank my brother Gorbachev and I salute him as a champion of democracy. Democracy and freedom are the best guarantees for progress in the Soviet Union, a superpower with which we have long-standing good relations. I salute my brother President Gorbachev and I wish the friendly Soviet people further progress and prosperity. I hope that the Soviet Union will remain a strong superpower with international prestige.

President Mubarak said: I do not want to repeat what President Gorbachev said about cooperation between the Soviet Union and Egypt in all fields. I agree totally with him on all he said about Soviet-Egyptian cooperation. Our talks were held in a cordial atmosphere reflecting the friendship existing between our countries and between President Gorbachev and myself.

Presidents Mubarak and Gorbachev then answered reporters' questions.

President Mubarak answered a question about the peace conference, saying: We and the Soviet Union agree that the peace conference should be held and that no obstacles should be placed in its way.

To avoid going into details, Mubarak said, let me tell you that when the peace conference opens, all subjects can be discussed there. This is the only method for arriving at a just solution of the Palestinian issue.

As for the peace conference in the Middle East, Mubarak said, I think we all know the effort the United States is exerting in cooperation with the Soviet Union to arrange for holding the peace conference. President Mubarak added that Egypt is holding exchanges with the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel, the Palestinians, and all the Arab parties.

President Mubarak said: We are talking with all the parties about the issue of Middle East peace. He noted that contacts are taking place on this with Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians.

President Mubarak emphasized the need for assistance in convening a peace conference and noted that all aspects of the issue are subject to negotiation. He remarked: I certainly expect the negotiations to be difficult. Nevertheless, we must make the first step and begin the conference.

President Mubarak pointed out that when the conference is held this will not mean the issue will be resolved the following day or week. He declared that the negotiations might take one or two years and that there will be times when they will be halted to be resumed at a later date. He said we must count on the efforts made during the conference to produce a result.

Answering a question on the connection between inter-Arab solidarity and holding the peace conference, President Mubarak said: Do not worry about Arab solidarity on resolving the Palestinian issue. Egypt in particular has not abandoned the Palestinian issue.

The president said Egypt is coordinating with all Arab parties on settling the Palestinian issue. He announced: We are coordinating with Syria, with whom we have a very good relationship. Two days ago I had a telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad. Meetings and other contacts also are taking place continuously.

President Mubarak added: We are coordinating with all the concerned countries regardless of any extremist positions that surface. The Palestinian issue is above all such differences.

President Mikhail Gorbachev made a statement at the beginning of the news conference. He said President Husni Mubarak arrived in Moscow on a working visit. He added: I greet my distinguished friend President Husni Mubarak, leader of the Egyptian people with whom we have ties of friendship and cooperation.

Gorbachev added: We have talked in private for more than one hour with the frankness and trust which characterize our relations. We discussed a large number of issues and current events in the USSR, Egypt, the Middle East, and the entire world. We found much mutual understanding on promoting cooperation in all spheres. The Egyptian and Soviet delegations then joined the talks and we focused on bilateral ties.

President Gorbachev continued: We have agreed to instruct the members of both delegations to discuss all aspects of bilateral cooperation and to expedite this cooperation as much as possible. I have expressed gratitude, in my own name and on behalf of the Soviet people, for the solidarity and support which my friend President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government and people showed to us during the ordeal of last month's rebellion.

Responding to a question on relations between Egypt and the USSR, Gorbachev said: I already have noted that we greatly appreciate President Mubarak's principled stands. As for the practical aspects of trade cooperation, I wish to express gratitude to President Mubarak, who made several specific decisions on this matter.

Gorbachev added: President Mubarak eliminated some differences which existed on trade between our two countries. We have agreed to increase the volume of trade and to return to barter agreements. I believe this will help resolve any remaining problems.

Gorbachev expressed great appreciation for Egypt's principled stands. He pointed out that Egypt and some other powers support the ongoing changes in the USSR, but favor maintaining the Soviet Union as a major country and developing it on new foundations.

On the new economic treaty among the Soviet republics, Gorbachev said that authorized delegations from the republics have nearly completed the formulation of the new treaty. He said the draft treaty will be submitted to a meeting of the heads of the republics' governments on 3 October and this will be the final stage in preparing the treaty for signing.

Gorbachev said the draft treaty proposed by Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the Soviet Economic Committee [name and title as received], and a number of experts has made it possible to unify the positions of all the republics, or rather a majority of the republics, because some of them participated only as observers. Gorbachev said the treaty will be signed during the first 10 days of October.

Answering another question about what he wishes to tell President Mubarak on the occasion of his 10th year in power, President Gorbachev said he believes that period has been a very important one for economic development in Egypt, during which many positive achievements were made.

He added that during the same period, Egypt's role in international affairs and the Middle East has grown. Gorbachev said: I congratulate my friend and brother President Husni Mubarak on the achievements the Egyptian people have made under his leadership.

Asked about Arab assistance to the Soviet economy, President Gorbachev said President Mubarak, Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al'-Aziz, the Kuwaiti leaders, and the United Arab Emirates have made real progress on this. He said they adopted a stand within the context of joint cooperation that he greatly appreciates. He added that specific solutions have been reached on this to extend aid to the USSR through a financial loan and other loans to establish specific trade projects.

Gorbachev added: We welcome these steps, which agree with the interests of all parties. This is a very important matter because you know the USSR's attitude toward the Arab nation and you know what Arab steps are being taken toward us now. We have problems at this stage with developing perestroyka.

To a question on the USSR's position on the peace conference, President Gorbachev said no change has been made in the Soviet stand regarding the joint Soviet-U.S. chairmanship of the Middle East peace conference. He added: We are still working within the specific time limit for convening this meeting.

President Gorbachev explained that the current progress on this issue inspires some realistic hopes, although some parties are casting doubts on its possibility of success. He said that at any rate, the steps being made convince all parties that it is necessary to hold a peace conference and attain a peaceful settlement in the region.

Mubarak Returns From USSR

NC2709172191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his delegation returned to Cairo from Moscow this evening following a two-day visit to the USSR during which he held talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mubarak Urges Shamir To Seize 'Last Chance'

JN2909200591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir urging him to seize the last chance to achieve peace in the region. He stressed that the loss of current peace efforts would subject Israel's security to major setbacks over the coming years.

Informed Egyptian sources disclosed to our radio that the Egyptian president sent the message toward the end of last week. The message presents several specific demands including an immediate halt to settlement building, before the start of the peace conference. It views the continuation of Israel's settlement activity as an entrenchment of the old situation, reflecting Israel's adherence to the occupied territories and meaning refusal in advance to meet any demands that may emerge from the peace conference.

In the message, Mubarak also asked Shamir to agree that Resolution 242 should be the basis of the coming negotiations. He said the resolution is not Arab for Israel to reject; it is an international resolution and Israel is a member of the United Nations, which adopted it. Mubarak stressed that the problem of Palestinian representation should be kept within its true proportion and that Israel should not use this issue as an excuse to hinder the convening of the peace conference. President Mubarak, however, points out that Cairo will try to overcome this obstacle. The Egyptian president called on Israel to clearly announce its acceptance that the peace conference be convened on the agreed-upon international bases. He also called for a solution to the problem of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon within the context of Resolution 425, not 242. He said the method of implementing this resolution could be agreed upon through an accord between Israel and Lebanon and through consideration of the objective international bases in this regard. President Mubarak's message to the Israeli prime minister is meant to remove the obstacles still obstructing the extension of invitations to the peace conference.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes PNC Statement

NC2809162391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1606 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry official spokesman has asserted that the stand expressed today in the statement by the Palestine National Council [PNC] represents a positive development which opens the door for Palestinian representation at the peace conference.

In a statement this evening, the spokesman said Egypt has been eager to achieve the Palestinian representation during the various stages of the peace process. He added that Egypt believes that this representation is imperative for a just and lasting Middle East peace.

Mauritania

PRDS Use of State Facilities Denounced

AB2709091091 Paris AFP in French 2245 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 24 Sep (AFP)—Moulaye Ould Jeyed, leader of the opposition Mauritanian Renewal Party [PMR], denounced President Taya's party's use of state facilities at a news conference held in Nouakchott today. Ould Jeyed explained, in particular, that former Interior Minister Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, the leader of this party—Party for the Democratic and Social Rally [PRDS]—has conserved his ministerial privileges and that the party uses public facilities for its meetings. He also observed that several ministers have become officials of the party but still maintain their posts in government.

"These privileges must either be granted to all with the same conditions or be scrapped," he said, stressing his preference for the total independence of the state and its facilities at this transitional stage.

Ould Jeyed, however, expressed the feeling that Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's government could validly ensure the transition period if these conditions of neutrality are ensured, adding that a national conference would not be necessary for the installation of democracy in Mauritania.

Concerning national unity, the PMR leader said he is convinced that an equitable solution could be found through honest and objective consultation. The past must be forgotten and the future envisaged with hope, he added, thereby rejecting "for the time being" the idea of setting up a commission of inquiry into the death in prison of black Mauritanians—several hundred, according to Amnesty International.

Concerning his political program, Mr. Jeyed insisted on the need to restructure the development policy in the priority areas of employment, health, and education.

The multiparty system was introduced in Mauritania in July 1991.

Creation of New Political Party Authorized

AB2909214391 Paris AFP in English 2008 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Nouakchott, Sept 29 (AFP)—The Mauritanian Interior Ministry has permitted creation of a new political party, the island's [as received] fourth, as part of the country's democratization process, an official source said Sunday, 29 September.

The Socialist and Democratic Popular Union is led by Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Mah, an economist and former mayor of Nouakchott.

Sudan

Army Offensive Predicted for 30 Sep in Darfur

AB2609215591 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Is Sudan's Darfur Province going to experience troubled days? According to the opposition, there is no doubt about it. It has accused the Sudanese Government of [word indistinct] and extermination in this province bordering Chad, Raphael Mbadinga.

[Mbadinga] According to opposition groups, General Umar al-Bashir's government has deployed most of its forces to face the popular uprising that has spread in that region. The Sudanese opposition has, in turn, been gearing up and warned the international community and regional countries that Khartoum plans to launch operations in 11 spots of that area of trouble as of 30 September.

The National Democratic Rally contends that the military and Islamic powers in Khartoum have finally decided to adopt the scorched earth policy against Christian and Animist resistance in southern Sudan, a region once considered the country's granary and hope for [words indistinct]. Trade transactions and practices are today in the hands of armed gangs, an expression used by the authorities to mean dissidents. The whole region is now cordoned off by the Army. Khartoum, I quote, has decided to do away with armed gangs, which according to the Sudanese authorities have killed about 100 people over the past few months.

The Sudanese opposition has drawn the attention of the international community to the violation of human rights in Sudan. Any opponent to the regime [words indistinct] will be subjected to physical and moral [words indistinct] applied to people accused of plotting against local institutions.

The Sudanese National Democratic Rally has also denounced acts of brutalities at Khartoum University.

RCC Member, Visiting Libyan Discuss Integration

EA2609180591 Khartoum SUNA in English 0909 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Khartoum, 26th September (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council [RCC] Member General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir met here yesterday the visiting secretary of the Sudanese-Libyan integration affairs at the Libyan Foreign Liaison Office, Jum'ah al-Fazzani. (?He) said in a press statement that the encounter had tackled the steps taken toward the implementation of the integration leading ultimately to the unity between the two countries and self-sufficiency.

Agreement Signed on Freedom of Movement

AB2909212491 Paris AFP in English 1833 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 29 (AFP)—Sudan and Libya have agreed to grant their citizens freedom of movement, the right to live, to work, and to own property in both countries, the Sudan news agency SUNA said Sunday.

Libyan Integration Committee Secretary Jum'ah al-Fazzani said that the Sudanese, "being Arabs," already enjoyed the rights of citizenship in Libya since that country declared its territory "a country for all Arabs."

The Libyan official said he hoped that Libyans in Sudan would have the same rights as Sudanese and that "the lifting of administrative and bureaucratic barriers will permit the free circulation of people between the two countries, based on a total unity."

Sudan and Libya signed an integration accord in July 1990, considered by the two countries as "a prelude to global Arab unity." The accord was the first step towards the projected complete unity of the two countries.

Al-Fazzani said guidelines had been worked out for the unification of legislation of the two countries.

Libya will also actively participate in the development of Sudan's infrastructure, especially in the construction of a major highway linking the two countries, he said.

Phase 2 of Ethiopian Soldiers' Repatriation Begins

EA2609150091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The second phase of the repatriation of the Ethiopian refugee soldiers who had taken refuge in Sudan after the collapse of the Mengistu regime last May resumed yesterday. The number of refugees was about 50,000.

General Command Says Coup Trials Underway

EA2809174291 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The director of the Moral Orientation Branch at the General Command has declared that coup plotter trials began immediately after the conclusion of investigations but before the statement issued on the conspiracy.

The accused face charges of striving to undermine the constitutional regime of the country and preparing to wage war against the state and [word indistinct]. Most of the accused made complete judicial confessions. The courts heard statements from prosecution and defense witnesses. Courts are still in session. The verdicts will be submitted to the authority which ordered the formation of the courts. The outcome of the trials will be announced to the [word indistinct] public opinion.

Kuwait

Security Arrangements Discussed With UNIKOM

LD3009100391 London KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 30 Dec (KUNA)—Major General Guenther Grindl, the commander of the UN peace force in Kuwait [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, UNIKOM], has praised the cooperation the UNIKOM forces have been receiving from the Kuwaiti Government in carrying out their mission. Maj. Gen. Greindl gave this praise during his meeting today with Kuwaiti Interior Ministry Undersecretary Major General Yusuf Badr al-Khirafi in the presence the delegation accompanying him, Khalid al-Duwaysan, the ambassador at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, and Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Jabr al-Fahd, the chief of the office for liaison with the international organizations.

A statement issued by the Interior Ministry has stated that the two sides discussed the security arrangements in the demilitarized zone between Kuwait and Iraq and coordination between the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry and UNIKOM. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister: No Reduction of OPEC Quota

PM2709141091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Sep 91 p1

[Unattributed report: "Petroleum Minister Hamud al-Ruqbah Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT: We Will Accept Nothing Less Than Our Quota Decided Before the Invasion"]

[Excerpts] Geneva, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamud al-Ruqbah has told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Kuwait will accept nothing less than 1.5 million barrels a day as its share of the OPEC quotas.

He said Kuwait did not need OPEC's approval of that ceiling because the quota was decided before the Iraqi invasion and before Kuwait stopped exporting oil after the oil wells were destroyed and set alight.

Dr. al-Ruqbah said that the OPEC conference members understood the Kuwaiti request and no oil minister has objected to this just request. He added that by the last quarter of this year Kuwait will be producing an average of 350,000 barrels per day from oilfields inside Kuwait and 160,000 barrels per day from the neutral zone, taking Kuwait's production to 500,000 barrels per day. [passge omitted]

Dr. Al-Ruqbah also said that the fires at 489 wells have already been extinguished, the Kuwaiti team extinguishing nine of them.

Saudi Arabia

AL-MADINAH Praises Bush Arms Initiative

LD2909133991 Riyadh SPA in English 1243 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, Sept 29, SPA—Saudi newspapers today commented on Arab and international issues. The Jeddah-based AL- MADINAH newspaper commended the initiative of U.S. President George Bush made yesterday regarding a one-side big reduction in nuclear arsenals and expressed hope that the Soviet Union would follow with a similar initiative soon. It said efforts underway to check the nuclear arms race affirm that the nuclear confrontation between the two super powers or in Europe is expected to come to a zero level while the prospects of such a nuclear confrontation in the Middle East have increased as a result of Israel's insistence to have a nuclear option and its continuing occupation of the Arab territory. [passage omitted]

Dealing with the peace conference in the Middle East, AL-RIYADH said the Palestinians have proved that they remain the core of the problem's solution and exposed Israel before the world that it is the only party which opposes peace in the region. AL-JAZIRAH published here said ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territory and recovering the Palestinian rights are the main bases to put an end to the conflict in the region. There could be no peace without meeting the legitimate national Palestinian demands, it added.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Sends Messages to Kuwaiti, Iranian Leaders

JN2909100791 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has sent a message to Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah dealing with fraternal relations and the situation in the region.

His highness the president also sent a similar message to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on current developments in the region and bilateral fraternal relations. The two messages were conveyed through diplomatic channels in response to two messages his highness the president had recently received from his highness the Kuwaiti amir and his excellency the Iranian president.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Activities at UN

General Assembly Speech

JN2809102791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0626 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (INA)—Iraq has stressed the need for commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and for fair implementation of its stipulations, so that no single state or a few states would be able to control the resources of other states or to exercise pressure to influence UN resolutions.

This came in a speech delivered on behalf of Iraq by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn before the 46th session of the General Assembly in New York yesterday afternoon.

Iraq urged the United Nations and all regional and humanitarian organizations to condemn the U.S. crime of burying thousands of steadfast Iraqi soldiers alive in their trenches.

Iraq stressed that the United Nations and the international community should condemn and investigate this criminal act, and should hold the perpetrators of this crime fully responsible.

Iraq urged the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate the crime and to take the required steps to return the remains of the martyrs to their homeland.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Ahmad Husayn said the United States is primarily responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people.

He added that U.S. President George Bush is trying to force the UN Security Council to not lift the embargo until the Iraqi regime is replaced. Thus, he said, President Bush was exceeding the stipulations of the UN Security Council resolutions and defying the principles of the UN Charter which he claims to be adhering to. The Iraqi foreign minister explained that the continuation of the inhuman blockade on Iraq and its people, despite Iraq's acceptance of all UN Security Council resolutions, represents an exposed exploitation of the Iraqi people's suffering for purely political purposes.

Ahmad Husayn regretted that improper descriptions have been used by the president of the bigger power to describe the head of another state in a manner that does not conform with diplomatic norms.

In this regard, Ahmad Husayn asked: What if we decide to call the U.S. President names as he has allowed himself to do? How would the killing of children, women, and the elderly be described? What words would be used to describe the bombardment of the al-'Amiriyah shelter and killing of innocent women and children there? What words would be used to describe the issuance of orders to bury Iraqi soldiers alive? What words could be used to describe the bombardment of the baby formula factory?

The foreign minister recalled the visible double standards in U.S. policy toward Iraq. He referred to U.S. behavior toward the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian land and denial of Palestinian rights, at a time when President Bush stresses that Zionism is not a political movement, an utterance which is void of truth and is meant to appease the Zionist lobby.

Iraq's address to the UN General Assembly runs as follows:

Mr. Chairman,

I extend to you sincere congratulations on your election as chairman of the 46th UN General Assembly session. I am confident that your qualifications and experience will make the assembly's debates yield fruitful results. I take this opportunity to extend congratulations to the new UN member states, wishing them progress and success in serving the principles and objectives of the charter. At the same time, I am looking forward to the day when the state of Palestine becomes a full UN member state.

Ahmad Husayn said: Mr. Chairman,

Stressing the importance of commitment to the principles of the charter, Iraq likewise stresses the need for fair and indiscriminate implementation of the provisions of the charter in a manner that does not allow any single or a few states to control the resources of a certain country, stemming from a position of strength and through the use of various means of pressure to influence UN resolutions. If the provisions of the charter and the international law itself are not implemented in a fair manner and on the basis of equality, then they will become a repressive and discriminatory tool. Therefore, we are now called upon more than ever before to bolster the role of the General Assembly. This is because the world is witnessing speedy developments which marginalized the role of the United Nations in finding solutions to the problems emanating from these developments, unless the UN Security Council permanent member states find that it is in their interest to give a role to the United Nations or to use it as a cover to obtain the so-called international legitimacy. We point out, in this regard, a statement issued by the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in Accra, Ghana's capital, during the first week of September. The statement says: "The emerging new trends in the increasingly complicated political arena are proceeding toward a unipolar world with new elements that may lead to situations which would prevent providing the necessary attention to the needs and interests of the nonaligned countries and all developing nations."

The foreign minister added: Mr. Chairman, on 23 September we listened to U.S. President Bush's speech before the General Assembly. We must note our regret that a head of state—in fact the head of the biggest state—used improper descriptions of the head of my state, in a manner that does not conform with diplomatic norms. In this regard, if we want to call the U.S.

President names, as he allowed himself to do, we would ask: How would the one who killed children, women, and the elderly with his aircraft and missiles be described? What words would be used to describe he who bombarded the al-'Amiriyah shelter and killed civilians, women, and children? What words would be used to describe the man who issued orders to bury Iraqi soldiers alive? What words can be used to describe the one who targeted a baby formula factory? Consequently, how can he who insists on denying 18 million people food, medicine, and all life requirements be described? We leave the answer to the international community and the United Nations. Although the U.S. President repeats his allegation that he does not want the Iraqi people to suffer starvation and a shortage of medicine and lack of the most basic requirements of civilian life, the U.S. Administration, above the others, is in fact responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people. President Bush has gone beyond the relevant UN Security Council resolutions because he is trying to dictate to the Council that the sanctions against Iraq must not be lifted unless the regime there is replaced, thus ignoring the stipulations of the UN Security Council resolutions and defying the principles of the charter, which he claims to be adhering to, and to its implementation in this new phase in international relations.

Maintaining the inhumane blockade against Iraq and its people, despite Iraq's acceptance of all UN Security Council resolutions, is a clear abuse of the Iraqi people's suffering for pure political purposes.

When we reemphasize the clear double standards in the U.S. Administration's policy toward Iraq, we must also highlight these double standards in another field mentioned in U.S. President Bush's speech. He has totally ignored the question of Palestine, Israel's occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories, and the deprivation of the Palestinian people from enjoying their human and national rights and their right to self-determination. Meanwhile, he claimed that Zionism is not a political movement. This shows that either the U.S. President does not know what the real nature of the Zionist movement is, or is deliberately twisting the facts and history to appease Israel and the Zionist lobby.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn added: Mr. Chairman, under the pretext of applying international legitimacy, Iraq was subjected to the comprehensive and deliberate destruction of all utilities. Events that preceded that proved the existence of premeditated intentions by the powers that carried out that destruction to weaken Iraq, infringe on its sovereignty, and humiliate its people after it emerged strong from an eight-year war and its weight on regional and international levels had increased. Kuwaiti rulers chose to collude with the West, particularly the United States, to destroy the Iraqi economy as a first step in their plan to destroy Iraq. The attempts by Iraq and other Arab states, as well as the clear Iraqi warnings, to make them retreat from the major harm they inflicted on Iraq, were of no use. Instead, the went even further in their acts of injustice and collusion with the aim of bringing Iraq to its knees, usurping its will, and starving its children, women, and elderly through their suspect oil policy.

The stated objective of the United States and its allies to justify the aggression against Iraq and the preparations that have gone into it was, at the beginning, the so-called defense of Saudi Arabia. The stated objective then turned into driving the Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. However, the military operations to achieve the alleged liberation did not start in Kuwait, but began on 17 January with a comprehensive air attack that targeted the economic infrastructure and civilian communities throughout Iraq. Electricity generation and relay stations, oil refineries, bridges, irrigation systems, water-treatment plants, factories, hospitals, schools, houses of worship, factories producing baby milk, cereal silos, and civilian shelters were destroyed. The al-'Amiriyah shelter, which was attacked by the criminal coalition planes, gives evidence to this; 319 citizens—mostly children, women, and old people—either burned or suffocated to death there.

The foreign minister asked: Were these targets on the Kuwait front? Was the objective of UN Security Council Resolution 678 the achievement of these results, so as to push Iraq to the edge of major disaster, whose victims are the civilian population, particularly children, women, and old people? Over a period of 43 days, aircraft of the U.S.-led coalition ceaselessly dropped around 100,000 tonnes of explosives over Iraqi cities and villages from the north to the south, and from east to west? Were all of the Iraqi cities and villages on the confrontation line in Kuwait, and did Iraq have to be destroyed?

Ahmad Husayn said: UN Security Council Resolution 678 of 1990, and all other resolutions that preceded it, did not authorize the United States and its allies to destroy Iraq. No fair person can approve of the destruction of Iraqi civilian installations. Meanwhile, the ultimate examples of lowness and cowardice were demonstrated on the battle front itself. Pentagon sources have confirmed what the U.S. media reported on 12 September 1991, that the U.S. troops, which avoided fighting, decided to let U.S. tanks, equipped with earth-moving equipment, to bury thousands of Iraqi soldiers alive in their trenches.

He said: We call on the international community in this forum and on other regional and humanitarian organizations to denounce that criminal act, and to investigate and hold responsible those who committed it. We also urge the International Committee for the Red Cross [ICRC] to investigate the subject and take the necessary measures to return the martyrs' remains to their homeland. These are, Mr. Chairman, the practices that run contrary to all accepted military norms which the United States has excessively committed to achieve its alleged victory over the heroic Iraqi soldiers.

The minister recalled that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, in his own annual report this year (document No. A/46/1 of 6 September 1991), noted that decisions to use force were not adopted precisely in accordance with chapter 7 of the charter, where the Security Council approves the use of force by a state or a group of states instead of the United Nations itself. The UN secretary general also stressed the need for the Security Council to adhere to the principle of proportionality in using force and to apply human laws in armed conflicts. In his report, the secretary general also noted the importance of taking into consideration the humanitarian concerns related to the population of the country against which the economic sanctions are applied.

The minister said: The withdrawal from Kuwait is complete and Iraqi has announced its acceptance of the Security Council resolutions on this issue and its commitment to implementing these resolutions.

Concerning Resolution No. 687 of 1991 on the ceasefire, in addition to Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory, all the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees and the third world countries' subjects have been returned. The process of returning Kuwaiti property continues. As for the other paragraphs, the resolution asked the United Nations to implement them and it is now doing so with the Iraqi authorities' cooperation.

The minister added: However, in their attempts to continue the economic blockade against the Iraqi people and keep U.S. forces in the region, the Kuwaiti rulers every now and then bring up baseless claims. For instance, they claim that Iraq is still detaining a number of Kuwaiti civilians. I would like to affirm from this rostrum that under ICRC supervision, Iraq has returned all military prisoners. Some 6,328 have been returned since 4 March 1991. Seventeen Kuwaitis, who are still in a detention camp, have been registered with the ICRC mission, which is still awaiting the Kuwaiti authorities' consent to receive them.

The ICRC has been supplied with a list of 3,536 Kuwaitis comprising 606 families who are staying in Iraq in addition to 159 other Kuwaitis. The Kuwaitis only agreed to receive 170 of those registered.

The Kuwaiti authorities bear full responsibility for hindering the return of these Kuwaitis registered with the ICRC. Iraq has informed the UN secretary general and the Arab League secretary general of these details, through an official memorandum dated 28 August 1991, and reiterated its readiness to cooperate anew with the ICRC to return to the Kuwaiti side all those present in Iraq. We asked the United Nations and the Arab League to urge the Kuwaiti side to consent and receive these subjects.

The minister continued: On another level, the Kuwaiti rulers raised a political and media clamor over what they called an Iraqi military landing on Bubiyan Island, lodging a complaint with the Security Council. Some Western states and their allies rushed to denounce Iraq after these allegations surfaced. After investigations by the UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] team in the area, these allegations turned out to be false. By these allegations, the Kuwaiti rulers' apparent aim was to keep the U.S. forces in the region for as long as possible.

On the other hand, the United States and its allies are adamantly insisting on continuing the economic blockade and blackmail in order to force Iraq to bear the cost of destroying its own weapons and the cost of establishing the reparation funds at a time when the 18 million people in Iraq are denied food and medicine and are exposed to starvation and deadly epidemics, the first victims being Iraqi children.

This is part of what has been reported by the UN missions led by Under Secretary General Martti Ahtisaari, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UNICEF's joint mission, the WHO delegation, the Harvard University team, and the ICRC mission.

The minister said the states that raise the slogans of freedom, democracy, and human rights are the ones that practice the most gruesome violations of the simplest forms of human rights, when they hinder the arrival of foodstuffs, medicine, and basic materials to the people of Iraq. By their blockade on Iraq and the Iraqi people, they are clearly violating international conventions on human rights; the two international conventions on civil, economic, cultural, and social rights; in addition to children's rights, the 1948 world declaration of human rights, particularly the fourth Geneva convention of 1949 and the protocol attached to it, which prohibits the prevention of food and medicine from reaching civilians, even during fighting. The protocol also prohibits resorting to starving civilians for purposes of war.

The UN Security Council Resolution No. 706 of 1991 has taken a course which is counter to reports of the UN missions that have visited Iraq. This resolution was not aimed at meeting humanitarian demands and alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering, but rather was aimed at exploiting these needs and suffering to impose unprecedented restrictions on the Iraqi economy. This resolution constitutes a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and interference in its internal affairs, in violation of the UN Charter and all international law and conventions.

In effect, Resolution No. 706 aims to maintain the economic blockade until further notice. This contradicts with the provisions of Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution No. 687 of 1991. Resolution No. 706 gives Iraq only a minimum amount of its food and medicinal needs so that people might not starve to death. It does not allow Iraq to reconstruct what the ugly aggression destroyed of its economy in terms of its agriculture, irrigation systems, transportation, bridges, health centers, and its oil industry.

Security Council Resolution 706 of 1991 is in fact aimed at pressuring Iraq into conceding its oil revenues and placing it at the disposal of the forces of aggression. It

also aims to compel Iraq into making its economic needs and fiscal policy a hostage in the hands of a few states that impose themselves as trustees over the Iraqi people, cancel the role of their government, and specify for this a mechanism that is impossible to implement.

Therefore, Resolution 706 of 1991, the aim of which was to meet the humanitarian and economic needs of Iraq and its people, was drafted in a way that contradicts with the UN Charter; imposing foreign trusteeship over the independent will of the Iraqi people. Moreover, this resolution in fact undermines the provisions of Security Council Resolution 687, which allowed Iraq to buy food, medicine, and civilian supplies without trusteeship or interference.

Here I must refer to the recent large-scale media campaign over the UN observer team in Iraq led by David Kay. In this regard, I must note the following fact:

The procedure that has been followed concerning the delivery of documents and materials by the observers stipulates that these documents and materials must be registered in the minutes that the two sides should in turn sign. These materials are specified and photographed to ensure that no tampering occurs or additions are made to the original materials.

He added: What happened, however, was that the inspection team insisted on seizing large quantities of documents without completing the regular procedures. In fact, the head of the team rejected these procedures from the very beginning.

He was not satisfied with the clamor he fabricated, but insisted on seizing the personnel files of energy-industry employees. Such files contain nothing but employees addresses, photos, and social status. Beside ignoring the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and going beyond the missions of the inspection teams, this matter would jeopardize the lives of those employees, as these files will inevitably fall in the hands of foreign intelligence services and, consequently, in the hands of the Israeli Mosad, which has a known criminal history as it has targeted and even assassinated some Iraqi nuclear energy workers.

He said: Finally, I must note that the head of the team currently in Iraq and who caused this clamor is David Kay, the same person who aroused a similar clamor against Iraq last June. It is known that the other 12 inspection teams, which have visited Iraq, concluded their work in calm fashion. They appreciated the Iraqi authorities' cooperation with them. The recurrence and timing of these events is meant to coincide with the beginning of our meetings, which could create a positive atmosphere in the interest of the Iraqi people and which would generate sympathy with their cause in preparation for lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq's children, elderly, and women. Thus, this team deliberately created an atmosphere of tension against Iraq. This confirms our previous declaration that this person works in accordance with pretentious instructions which are not in line with what he is entrusted with by the United Nations.

Ahmad Husayn added: Mr. Chairman, the obvious signs of the so-called new world order indicate that it is a unipolar order which does not take into consideration the needs and interests of developing nations. It is an order in accordance with the dictates and decisions of one or a limited number of states, which only take into consideration their narrow interests through a selective approach and system of double standards. This runs contrary to the fair principles emanating from the charter.

He said: As we have seen so far, the features of this order consist of flagrant practices which involve interference in other states' internal affairs, complete ignorance of the rights of the Palestinian people who are still under foreign control and occupation, and the adopting of a selective policy as manifested in allowing certain states to acquire whatever weapons they wish, including nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. On the other hand, a comprehensive embargo is levied against other states.

There are many cases in the world which testify to the double standards being followed by the Western states, headed by the United States. It suffices here to note one example concerning Iraq.

He went on to say: When Iraq takes measures to promote security and order inside its territory against infiltrators, agents, and traitors committing acts of murder, pillaging, and sabotage, Western forces interfere, even militarily, to protect these terrorists. However, when Turkey launches raids and military attacks inside Iraqi territory under the pretext of attacking saboteurs and terrorists fleeing Turkey, U.S. officials at the highest level come out in support of such measures.

As for the Palestine question, this is the most brazen example. While numerous nations urge implementation of international legitimacy and seek to cover their illegitimate actions against Iraq under that slogan, some of them continue to ignore the Palestinian people's rights. The UN-passed resolutions on the Palestine issue remain unimplemented. Zionist occupation authorities persist in annexing occupied land and building settlements, bringing in Jewish immigrants, and engaging in the most hideous tactics of repression of the unarmed Palestinian people, including women and children.

He stressed that justice and fairness as well as the UN Charter dictate that the international community should take the side of the Palestinian people as they demand their right to self-determination on their land in Palestine in common with other peoples who have gained independence. The Palestinian people must also be enabled to exercise their inalienable right and set up their independent state led by their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

He added: And yet, we are witnessing attempts to marginalize the role of the United Nations and consequently neglect its resolutions. The world body should play a key, effective role in this respect, and it must see to the implementation of its resolutions on the Palestinian issue, above all Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem and the other occupied Arab land; respect for the human rights of the Palestinian individual; and the cessation of the influx of Soviet and other Jews to settle in occupied Palestine.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to assert whatever measures that do not take into account the fact that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people will be attempts to force solutions against the will of the Palestinian people, and we ought to reject such measures.

He added: On this occasion, we emphasize that Iraq's principled position is to back the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain all their inalienable rights.

He stressed that Iraq's principled stance, and the determination demonstrated by the Iraqi people and leadership to oppose Zionist and imperialist schemes targeted at the future of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, drove imperialist and Zionist circles, their allies, and those who connived with them to launch the 30-state aggression to destroy Iraq and its capabilities.

The foreign minister added:

Mr. Chairman, concluding my speech, I would like to remind the UN member states of the major objective for which this organization was established: namely, to maintain people's sovereignty over their territory and their free, honorable living.

The foreign minister added: You have a tragic human condition now befalling the Iraqi people who have contributed a great deal to human civilization over six thousand years to safeguard its progress, justice, and humanity.

The foreign minister stressed that the Iraqi people are now faced with the specters of famine and disease in their ugliest manifestations as a result of an unjust economic blockade, whose victims have primarily been women, children, and old people, as well as innocent civilians.

He added: This organization, whose charter stipulates protecting the dignity of the individual, is, therefore, now put to a test which will be judged by history in light of the way it will deal with this tragic condition, for which the organization itself is partly responsible.

Confers With Cuban Counterpart

JN2809194391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn met with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at UN headquarters in New York this morning. Following the meeting, he told the INA correspondent in New York that he exchanged views with Malmierca on issues of interest to Iraq and Cuba. He added that he explained to the Cuban foreign minister the circumstances Iraq is facing, the results of the unjust siege on the Iraqi people, and the scope of the plans the United States is leading after it recruited a number of states against Iraq and dominated the UN Security Council.

He explained that the use of inspection teams is part of the plan to carry out provocative and espionage operations that have nothing to do with the missions of these teams in accordance with the Security Council's resolutions. He added that the use of the inspection teams by the United States has become very clear due to the makeup of the recent team, headed by the American citizen David Kay.

In his statement to INA, Ahmad Husayn pointed out that he reviewed bilateral relations with Malmierca. The two sides voiced satisfaction over bilateral coordination and cooperation. They also reviewed international developments in light of the events that have taken place in the Soviet Union.

The two ministers stressed the need to continue the Nonaligned Movement's activity and solidarity to defend the member states of the movement. They also reviewed topics on the agenda of the 46th session of the UN General Assembly.

Meets With Nonaligned Group

JN2809201491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn met with representatives of the Nonaligned Movement in New York yesterday.

According to the INA correspondent in New York, the minister outlined the grave consequences for the Iraqi people due to the continued trade embargo.

He also detailed the underlying causes of the media fuss created by the biased attitude of the mostly-American inspection team headed by American David Kay.

The minister and the nonaligned delegates also examined the prospects for increased coordination and cooperation within the nonaligned group.

Attends Arab Meeting in New York

JN2809202491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1948 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Excerpts] United Nations, 27 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn met with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at UN headquarters in New York this morning. [passage omitted]

Additionally, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn attended a meeting held at noon today by the Arab foreign ministers attending the 46th UN General Assembly session.

At the beginning of the meeting, the ministers studied the political communique issued by the Palestine National Council at the end of its meeting in Algiers. The ministers then agreed to refer the items listed on their agenda to a meeting the permanent representatives will hold later at the United Nations.

The agenda contains issues related to the UN General Assembly session, including the Palestinian cause, U.S. attempts to repeal the UN General Assembly session resolution of 1975 that equated Zionism with racism, the developments in the region, Zionist nuclear armament, the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region, and cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations.

Meets With Pankin, Discusses Relations

JN2909085391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 29 Sep, (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn met here last night with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn told the INA correspondent in New York that he discussed with the Soviet minister developments in the international arena and Soviet-Iraqi bilateral relations. The two ministers agreed to continue bolstering bilateral relations in the interest of the Iraqi and the Soviet people.

AL-THAWRAH Criticizes Bush's UN Speech

JN3009102991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0758 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Sep, (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that Bush's speech at the UN General Assembly [UNGA] declares Washington's desire to marginalize the UN role and effectively cancel its existence even if it continues to exist in some garish and fragile form without authority or decisionmaking power.

In an article today the paper says that the new international situation, whose balance is controlled by U.S. pressure through threats and enticements, is another reason for UNGA's inability to make decisions or express just and objective opinions regarding the new international developments, especially as regards the recent activity of the international organization itself.

It adds that the United Nations and its organizations have emerged from this test manipulated by and mortgaged to one state, the United States, in both structure and activity. This state used its oppressive force to impose its law, interests, and will on international legitimacy and the interests of nations, as well as the United Nations until the latter lost its ability to perform its duties of preserving the sovereignty and independence of its members.

The paper notes that last Monday affirmed this mortgage in its most extreme form when the UNGA heard Bush's speech and did not object to what was said in it, such as the impertinent deviation from diplomatic behavior and clear disdain for the international body and the representatives of countries, which have all become possible and probable targets for aggression as far as the United States is concerned whenever Washington so wishes.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that despite all the problems and difficulties contained in this challenge, the United Nations as a legal body has no option but to preserve its existence 46 years after its formation. Without it, upheaval and chaos will govern relations between states, which would find no point of reference when their uniting body is absent, negative, and falling apart.

Reply Sent to UN Special Committee Head

JN2809164591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, has delivered a message to Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Committee. This comes in reply to the message Ekeus sent on 25 September regarding the issue of the inspection team's helicopters. Following is the text of the message:

1. Iraq previously agreed in our permanent representative's message of 24 September 1991 to allow the inspection team to use German helicopters.

2. Iraq worked out a number of conditions to guarantee its security and to prevent the helicopters from exceeding their mission with the international inspection teams.

3. Mr. Ekeus' message on 25 September 1991 includes approval of some of these conditions, but this is not enough.

4. We have named al-Habbaniyah airfield, and in addition to the al-Habbaniyah airfield, we propose al-Rashid airfield or the helicopter airfield in al-Taji as an alternative base of operations for the German helicopters. This is still our position.

As we previously asserted, we are still ready to secure helicopters on a permanent basis to transport the team from Baghdad to al-Habbaniyah and vice versa.

5. We are waiting for Mr. Ekeus to arrive in Baghdad to reach an understanding with him on these matters and other matters related to the David Kay team.

UN Nuclear Experts Beginning New Inspection

NC2909112191 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 29 (AFP) - U.N. nuclear experts began a new inspection Sunday after completing an inventory of confiscated documents that were at the centre of a four-day showdown with Iraqi authorities.

The inspectors and Iraqi specialists finalized the inventory late Saturday after working all day, a U.N. source said. He did not specify where the latest inspection was taking place.

The 44 nuclear experts, headed by American David Kay, returned to their hotel at dawn Saturday after spending four days and nights in a Baghdad car park at the site where they seized the documents and films.

They said the material related to Iraq's nuclear weapons capability.

The inspectors were allowed to leave the car park after an agreement reached Friday under which they could keep the material after it was listed.

Baghdad has insisted the documents were "administrative files" from the personnel sections of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency and from the Iraqi Ministry of Industry.

Unregistered Documents Not To Be Acknowledged

JN2909105891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1023 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—Iraq has affirmed that it will not acknowledge any document or photocopy that has not been logged in jointly signed minutes between Iraq and the UN inspection team, which might be used to propagate allegations against the Iraqi nuclear program for peaceful purposes.

In a statement to INA, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said: We have already said that we expect that U.S. and Zionist circles will exploit the premeditated and pretentious way by which the inspection team, which is headed by U.S. intelligence officer David Kay, and which, according to news media sources includes an Israeli among other agents, propagate allegations against the Iraqi nuclear program for peaceful purposes, as part of the premeditated campaign against Iraq.

The spokesman added that the American media began this campaign by repeating claims published in NEWSWEEK magazine, even before the inspection team had accomplished its mission in Iraq.

The spokesman said: We restate what we have conveyed to the Security Council, in the Iraqi UN permanent representative's message to the president of the Security Council dated 25 September 1991, that the Iraqi authorities do not acknowledge, nor will they acknowledge, any document or photocopy if it is not logged in the joint minutes by the two parties. In addition, if there is a claim made citing documents or photocopies that are not logged in the joint minutes, this means that there has been a premeditated attempt to harm Iraq.

Minister—UN Resolutions Consolidate Blockade

JN2909174191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has stressed that UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 consolidate the unfair economic blockade to starve the women, children, and old people of Iraq.

In a press conference held here today, he said that Iraq was allowed to export $1.6 billion worth of oil, $670 million of which was allocated for the purchase of foodstuffs, and approximately $1 billion for reparations, including the destruction of weapons and the expenses of the United Nations and its teams.

He added that the two resolutions have not allowed Iraq to import meat, milk, chicken, eggs, cheese, or other foodstuffs, but have allowed it to import the items listed on the ration card for six months only. He pointed out that the decision of the United States and its allies to distribute foodstuffs to Iraqis constitutes flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and infringes on Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Talks Begin With Arab League on Kuwaitis

JN2809135691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—The official meetings between the Iraq and the Arab League delegation began at the Foreign Ministry today to discuss the situation of Kuwaitis in Iraq.

Addressing the meeting, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, director of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry and head of the Iraqi side, stressed Iraq's eagerness to contribute to the joint Arab action.

He said that Iraq has no interest in holding any Kuwaiti, explaining that it was Iraq that proposed sending a team to Iraq to inspect the situation of the Kuwaitis and reveal all facts for Arab and international public opinion.

He added that Iraq was ready to do everything to facilitate contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as visits to Kuwaitis in accordance with the Geneva Declaration.

Concluding, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi hoped that the Arab League would make efforts to return Iraqis held in Kuwait to their homeland and families.

'Abdallah Adam, envoy of the Arab League secretary general, thanked and expressed his appreciation for Iraq and its leadership, represented by President Saddam Husayn, for its hospitality, especially under the current

circumstances. He also asserted that this visit came as a result of Iraq's initiative to invite the delegation to investigate Kuwaitis in Iraqi.

He pointed out that the purpose of the visit and the meeting is a humanitarian one and that Iraq is eager to solve such problems within the Arab framework. This position, he added, will clear the Arab atmosphere, stressing that there is no doubt about Iraq's sincere cooperation in this regard. The two sides decided to hold technical working sessions to discuss this issue.

'Abdallah Adam, envoy of the Arab League secretary general, arrived in Baghdad last night for this purpose.

RCC Authorizes President To Fill Any Post

JN2809171191 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] BABIL has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has made a decision authorizing the president of the republic to appoint anyone he deems qualified to occupy any post, if he thinks this would be in the public interest. This includes the post of minister or a similar grade. There does not have to be a vacant position for the appointment. The appointee shall enjoy the privileges and rights of his peers.

Minister Says Ready To Resume Oil Exports

JN2909151791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Iraq has stressed its readiness to resume oil exports, restore trade ties with its previous clients, and reassume its role in the world oil market after repairing and operating its oil installations over the past few months. These installations were damaged by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

Answering a question by an INA correspondent on the possibility of Iraq exporting its oil in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said: Those who know the details of Resolution 706 and the report submitted by the UN secretary general to the Security Council see that those who drafted the resolution intended to infringe on Iraq's sovereignty and right to utilize its natural resources for the benefit of its citizens and to improve their living standards.

He pointed out that the resolution interferes with the production, transport, and marketing of Iraqi oil and complicates the methods employed by the oil industry. It also burdens the Iraqi oil institutes, which are well known for their competence and high technology, with huge expenses and supervision and inspection measures, which are ineffective and only aim to create job opportunities for certain agencies.

The oil minister said: The routine measures employed by UN agencies and the high cost of running them do not suit internationally-accepted methods in the oil trade. It is worth noting that certain countries have deliberately used the same UN agencies, which they used to accuse of incapability and inflated bureaucracy, for vital questions like the production, export, and marketing of crude oil.

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti concluded his statement by saying: Resolution 706 was drafted according to a conspiratorial course aimed at obstructing Iraq's oil march and its prominent status in the world oil market. It also aimed at leaving the market for the countries that run in the circles of the industrialized countries to achieve their own interests and usurp the will and rights of the oil producing countries and paralyze the process of their economic growth. He pointed out that these signs have exposed the real objectives behind this resolution by maintaining the unfair economic blockade on Iraq's oil resources.

Al-Sahhaf—Kuwaitis To Return With Red Cross

JN2909193191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—This evening, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, received 'Abdallah Adam, representative of the Arab League secretary general.

The minister stressed Iraq's eagerness to make the mission of 'Abdallah Adam a success by familiarizing him with the situation of Kuwaitis in Iraq, and providing all facilities to return them to Kuwait under the supervision of the International Red Cross.

He said that Iraq focuses on the humanitarian and political role of the Arab League in addressing this question, given that the Kuwaiti regime is trying to misrepresent Iraq's stance toward this question so as to prolong the unjust blockade on it.

The minister of state for foreign affairs emphasized Iraq's support for joint Arab action and Arab solidarity which promote Arab strength, progress, and invincibility in the face of foreign threats to the present and future of the Arab nation.

'Abdallah Adam praised Iraq's initiative to invite a team from the Arab League to look into the situation of Kuwaitis. He also valued Iraqi cooperation and facilities to ensure the success of the Arab League mission.

Cabinet Discusses U.S. 'Siege,' Inspection Teams

JN2809132891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session today under Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended.

The Council of Ministers discussed the dimensions of the American campaign to pressure our people and continue the unjust siege on them. It also discussed the

obstacles created by the sixth nuclear inspection team, the helicopter issue, and Iraq's constructive proposals to deal with them.

The council then studied topics on its agenda and made necessary decisions and recommendations about them.

Ayatollah Kho'i's Son Leads Delegation to U.S.

LD2709053891 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 26, IRNA—A group of Shiite Muslims from Iraq led by Abdolmajid Kho'i, son of Ayatollah Seyyed Abolqasem Kho'i, is here for talks with Western envoys here. Since Monday they have conferred with the permanent British envoy to the U.N., the chairman of the U.N. Security Council and the French envoy here. Before arriving here they had held talks with officials at the U.S. State Department in Washington.

While in Washington Abdolmajid Kho'i had meetings with the undersecretary of state and reviewed the future of Iraq.

A statement released by the Iraqi delegation here Wednesday said the delegation is led by the son [of] Ayatollah Kho'i.

In his meetings with foreign envoys here Abdolmajid Kho'i has discussed the demands of the people of Iraq, the cultural rights of the Shiite Muslims in that country, as well as international issues and current efforts for securing the release of the remaining group of hostages in Lebanon.

The statement also says that the Iraqi delegation are intent to give the world community a better knowledge of the status of the Shiite Muslims in Iraq.

It says in the wake of the meetings of the delegation with the U.S. State Department officials Washington has issued a communique calling on the Iraqi Government to guarantee Ayatollah Khoei's security in Iraq and allow a U.N. delegation to inspect southern Iraq.

Meanwhile another delegation of Iraq's Patriotic Front of Kurdistan is now in Washington, though there has been a news black-out at the official level on the presence there of that delegation.

Reactions to Palestine National Council Moves

Government Commitment to Peace Stressed

TA2809153391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Jerusalem political circles have said that Israel remains true to its stand, which excludes the PLO from the political process, so there is no connection between the Palestine National Council's resolutions, whatever they may be, and Israel's commitment to the peace process.

Our correspondent Arye Golan has been told that Israel attaches great importance to the political process—mainly to its beginning, which will lead to direct bilateral negotiations without preconditions between us and our neighbors.

Shamir Aides, Others React

TA2909071491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] People in the prime minister's bureau are not panicking over the resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Algiers and do not see in them any change or sign of moderation. The PLO and its resolutions make no difference; that organization is not party to the political process and we will not negotiate with it, says Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office. At the same time, he adds, it is clear beyond any doubt that the PLO is trying to manipulate the moves and has not given up any of its demands. It still wants to appoint the Palestinian representatives to the negotiations, and the alleged PLO concession about a declaration about them has not been confirmed. The PLO continues to demand that the delegation include representatives from Jerusalem and from the Palestinian diaspora and that they insist on the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to a sovereign state with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 29 September quotes Ben-Aharon as saying that "al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi will not participate in negotiations with Israel because they are PLO members even if they do not formally belong to that organization's establishment. At the same time, he denied reports that Israel had asked U.S. Secretary of State Baker not to meet the two in Washington."]

It is likewise emphasized in the prime minister's bureau that the PLO is in fact demanding that the Palestinian delegation enjoy independent status within the Jordanian delegation. Even the resignation of Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] from the PLO Executive Committee is insufficient, people here say; the United States had demanded that the PLO cease dealing in terrorism, while 'Arafat himself continues to issue instructions that such actions continue, and he furthermore still finances terrorist bodies such as the Islamic Jihad.

In short, Jerusalem officially says that the PLO is irrelevant to the political process, no matter what resolutions it adopts. Besides, there is nothing new in the PLO and it has not abandoned terrorism. The PLO also includes Hanan 'Ashrawi. A message to this effect has been delivered to Baker and will again be reiterated to him when he returns here in two weeks, bearing the invitations to the conference.

[A similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 29 September by political correspondent Natan Gutman adds that "unofficially, political sources noted that the resolutions adopted in Algiers point to Yasir 'Arafat's growing power."]

Further Reactions Reported

TA2809203091

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1915 GMT on 28 September reports: "Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said tonight that since Israel's position is that the PLO will not participate in the conference, the PNC [Palestine National Council] resolutions are unrealistic as far as Israel is concerned.

"Ben-Aharon told our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik that the resolutions reflect no inclination toward more moderate stands and that some of the demands presented by the PNC have been rejected by Israel and the United States.

"Our political correspondent adds that there is growing ferment among the right-wing parties in the government. Tehiya is trying to enlist the support of Tzomet and Moledet to oppose Israel's participation in the peace conference, thereby possibly bringing about early elections."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 28 September adds: "The National Religious Party [NRP] will support early elections if it becomes evident that right-wing parties—Tehiya, Moledet, and Tzomet—intend to secede from the government in the wake of the convening of a peace conference. Sha'ul Yahalom, the NRP political secretary, told our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz that his party will not abet the establishment of an alternative government headed by the Labor Party."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 28 September provides other Israeli reactions: "Minister Yuval Ne'eman says it is clear to Tehiya that if the Likud Government pursues its current line, it will lead to negotiations with the PLO. In a statement issued tonight, Minister Yuval Ne'eman hopes that at least a shred remains of the stand that the Likud has held throughout the years—that no negotiations are to be held with the PLO. Ne'eman's statement calls on the prime minister to abandon the political process.

"Knesset Member Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement welcomes the PNC resolution. He says that the Palestinians, who have never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity, are about to understand at last that only negotiations and compromise will help them acquire their national rights."

Shamir on Steps Against al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi

TA2909083291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] Israel will not take real steps against Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi because it lacks conclusive evidence to prove their participation in the Algiers conference. Senior political sources yesterday said that the security authorities have not been instructed to make any special effort to collect evidence on the pair's participation in the Palestine National Council [PNC].

The sources believe that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is not interested in a confrontation with the United States, which may develop if the two are detained. Rather, Shamir is interested in leaving matters unclear and making do with a routine interrogation by the police. Shamir said yesterday that the two will not be allowed to participate in the peace conference but added that he cannot tell the U.S. Administration with which Palestinians to meet.

Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, said last night that 'Ashrawi is ineligible for the delegation because she has openly identified herself as a PLO operative, whereas al-Husayni is disqualified on the grounds of being a Jerusalem resident. Ahime'ir claimed that Israel will not care who gave tacit approval for the Palestinian representatives' participation in the joint delegation with Jordan. "It is impossible to delve too deeply into who in the end gave them that license or to pore so scrupulously over their various connections. We are only interested in the participation of Palestinians who meet the criteria. The PNC resolutions are of no interest to us."

Political sources said in reaction to the PNC's resolutions that Israel's position regarding the PLO is that it forms no part of the process and that there is consequently no connection between its decisions and Israel's commitment to the peace process. The prime minister's associates said that Shamir is determined to accept the invitation to the peace conference's opening ceremony and is not afraid of the right-wing parties' threat to quit the government. Shamir likewise does not reject the possibility of pursuing the peace process even if he is forced to head a minority government or an interim government. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Palestinians, Peace, Iraq

TA2909124791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1116 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Uri Paz and political correspondent Natan Gutman; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Gutman] Mr. Prime Minister, shalom and a happy holiday to you.

[Shamir] The same to you.

[Gutman] Do you now have any information about whether Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi indeed visited Algiers? And if so, what kind of impact will this have?

[Shamir] I do not really have to answer this question. There are certain Israeli institutions whose job it is to handle this business, and they are apparently looking into the matter. If they reach certain conclusions, we will have to see what they are.

[Gutman] But how does this affect the peace process and the talks with these people?

[Shamir] I do not think it has any impact on the peace process. It will, however, have an effect on how the authorities treat these people, because in this case it will be clear that they broke the law.

[Paz] Personalities in the territories argue that the pair's travel to Algiers was coordinated with the United States, which promised them that they would not be apprehended upon their return to Israel. Is this report correct?

[Shamir] I have heard nothing about it, and I tend not to believe it.

[Gutman] Will you agree to let the Americans—Dennis Ross or James Baker—meet with these personalities, if it turns out that they have actually been to Algiers?

[Shamir] This is up to the Americans—they can meet with whomever they want—but it has long been known that these people will not represent anyone in the negotiations.

[Gutman] Mr. Shamir, George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine suffered a blow late last week when hundreds of its activists were rounded up. How long do you think it will be before that organization recovers? Was this a lethal blow? I am asking the party that should deal with them.

[Shamir] I could have understood it had you addressed the question to George Habash. He is the one to say how such detentions affect his organization. Nevertheless, one should say that it is an important achievement by our security forces, who have done an honorable job. These people dealt in terrorism, attacks, and killings.

Since we have gotten our hands on them, clearly their murderous terrorist activities will suffer a setback. [passage omitted]

[Paz] Some people have dubbed George Bush master of the universe. Would you characterize the world's shift to a position of only one superpower as good or bad news?

[Shamir] Look, I am not supervisor of the entire world, nor do I regard myself as interpreter of all the developments around the globe. I view all the events from the point of the people of Israel and the State of Israel, which some would call a very narrow point of view. For me, however, this is the whole world; it is the alpha and omega.

[Paz] And from that point of view, how are things?

[Shamir] It depends on how President Bush's administration affects Israel's development.

[Paz] In any case, do you accept this definition of master of the universe; does it seem accurate to you?

[Shamir] It is highly exaggerated, highly exaggerated. How can you have a master of the universe? This phrase has never been used even to describe the Lord above. [passage omitted]

[Paz] Negotiation, by definition, means that the parties seek a compromise proposal. Will Israel be ready to give up something in exchange for peace agreements with the Arab countries?

[Shamir] That depends; it depends on what you mean by compromise and what the issues involved are. I have said before that if there is anyone in the Arab world who thinks that international or bilateral negotiations are some type of court where the appellants show up to demand that their debts be paid, if anyone thinks this is some kind of executor where one comes to collect what others owe him in accordance with some UN resolutions, then he is making a serious mistake. Negotiations among nations are the forum for the parties to sit down together and persuade each other to reach an understanding on the matters at hand. It is necessary to persuade and reach an understanding. This is the purpose of negotiations. If anyone thinks that they can come, flanked by a battery of attorneys, to prove to us that the UN Security Council adopted such and such a resolution, which is why Israel should do this or that, he is mistaken. This is not negotiating. [passage omitted]

[Paz] Some have claimed that you and President Bush are going through a crisis on account of your two personalities. Is this also a term coined by the media?

[Shamir] It is all gibberish; the reality always proves whether there should or can be trust between governments. [passage omitted]

[Paz] Mr. Shamir, with your permission let us discuss the Iraqi front. Gunpowder can again be smelled in the Gulf. Are we facing a possible resumption of fighting there?

[Shamir] I hope not, but it is impossible to tell, of course. The subjects that must be decided in this regard are extremely grave and serious. I hope the United States, together with the coalition that stood by its side in the previous campaign against Iraq, will find the way to remove the dangers posed by Iraq's nonconventional weapons.

[Gutman] Was this coalition wrong when, in the course of the Gulf war, it stopped short of bringing about Saddam Husayn's downfall?

[Shamir] I do not think I should grade elements outside Israel, but the fact remains that this problem is still awaiting its solution.

[Paz] It seems that the scars in Israel caused by the Scuds have not yet healed and that each hot item from the Gulf regarding the movement of Patriot missiles on Saudi soil speeds up heartbeats here. Is there any real reason for the Israeli public to react with such panic and concern when such reports stream in from that part of the world?

[Shamir] I think there is no reason for panic, and in fact there is no hysteria.

[Paz] Nearly a year after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, has Israel learned all the lessons from the Gulf war? Is the home front better prepared? Do we have an answer to the Iraqi missiles, or has the situation actually not changed?

[Shamir] We have learned a great deal from the developments and events surrounding the Gulf crisis. Many things have been corrected and changed. The lessons have been learned.

[Paz] Could the development of the Arrow missile, for example, increase the political leadership's freedom of maneuver or freedom of action?

[Shamir] It is certainly very important that we reach the stage of completing the development of this missile. There are also other things we are dealing with, and I hope they will succeed.

[Paz] Are you sorry Israel controlled itself during the Gulf war?

[Shamir] I do not think it had any other choice.

[Paz] When we deal with, or review, the issue of the threats to Israel, is there still danger to our very existence?

[Shamir] Well, in the geopolitical situation in the Middle East, the threat still remains, at least in theory.

[Paz] Does the seminal hostility of the Arab rulers still exist?

[Shamir] Of course. I think there is hostility and hatred as well as nonacceptance of Israel. That is one reason why I attach such great importance to the advent of the opening of direct negotiations which, even if they do not

conclude quickly with positive results, then the very fact that the parties sit down and negotiate bears the seeds that could limit what I would call that automatic or instinctive hatred. Yet to our deep regret, that hatred still exists. We are, after all, only a tiny country in the stormy seas around us. True, we are growing, we overcome problems, but this is our job. [passage omitted]

On Peace Talks, New Strategic Allies

TA2909093191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
29 Sep 91 p 11

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Hemi Shalev—place and date not given]

[Text] [Shalev] The world has been undergoing basic changes in recent years, including the switch from a bipolar world to a unipolar one. In your view, are those changes for the good, and in view of them, does Israel have to reevaluate the situation and adopt new thinking?

[Shamir] There is no doubt that changes have taken place in the world and are still occurring. It is still not the end of the road. There are developments and crises whose end we still can not foresee. There is no longer stability. In those places where changes are taking place, especially in East Europe, the end is still not in sight. The question whether it is good or bad for us does not concern me; we cannot alter anything anyway. Therefore, what is left for us to do is find our path and ways to adapt our actions to the changes taking place. It is a global process involving relationships with the USSR, the United States, and Europe.

We have to look for friends even in places we did not look in the past. We must not neglect a single corner of the world. We must look for ways to stabilize a relationship with East Europe. Europe is also undergoing changes from its unique economic and political position. We must find ways to become part of all that. I found a great deal of interest in that when I participated in the Paris conference [in early September]. I noticed that many people are looking for the same things I am looking for. We are all looking together.

[Shalev] Do you see any connection between these developments and the latest developments in Israeli-U.S. relations?

[Shamir] Certainly, there is no doubt about it, nor is this the last word. The United States has not yet consolidated its new doctrine, but there is no question that the developments have had an effect. The very fact that the U.S.-USSR conflict has ended and the two blocs are no longer at war with each other is beginning to show its impact. Definitely.

Of course, it is necessary to seek additional partners [smukhot] for our strategic alliance with the United States. I still think it is relevant and that it is equally relevant for the United States, but it is likewise important to work on an alternative.

The Middle East has still not undergone a complete change. True, the radical countries have forfeited their Soviet prop, but they have as of yet failed to draw all the necessary conclusions from this. Syria is rushing to get closer to the United States. In all honesty, it has tried to achieve this even before the massive changes in the USSR. Al-Asad saw this coming. If I were the United States, I would not view the Arabs today as allies that can be trusted under all circumstances. There still remains the historic gap of distrust, as well as something emotional that has not yet been completely wiped out. The United States and Egypt are making a great effort to develop tighter ties and foster an intimate affinity which has not existed before. It is necessary to find out whether or not it heralds a systematic change.

[Shalev] Do the closer ties between the United States and the Arab countries come at the expense of its relations with Israel?

[Shamir] Of course, that must be the case. In other words, it is logical theoretically, although it does not have to happen; but in fact that is the situation. Europe and the United States are drawing closer and there are more consultations between them. Compared to the present one, the previous administration did not give much thought to European positions on the Middle East. Those closer ties are not good for us.

[Shalev] Are you worried about the state of relations with the United States?

[Shamir] It is not a matter of being worried or not worried. We have to search for ways, for answers, to the changes taking place. Everything that existed before likewise did not take place in a single day. It was the outcome of developments over years, layer upon layer. Now we must change, we must again search. We cannot walk exactly along the previous path. We must search for additional points of cooperation which we did not see before. We must also search in other parts of the world, in the Far East, Asia, and even Africa.

[Shalev] How would you define the state of relations with the United States right now? Commentators and statesmen describe them as at an unprecedented low.

[Shamir] I have heard the term "unprecedented low" many times. There is no need to get excited about it. Of course, relations are not at a peak. It is a period of differing opinions, in particular with the White House. There have been such periods in the past; there have been periods of sharp differences with serious repercussions on all the issues which formed the basis of the cooperation with the United States. Action must be taken against those negative trends.

[Shalev] It seems to be the situation we will be facing for at least the next five years.

[Shamir] We must not despair, not even over this administration. We must provide answers, look for ways. We

have no interest in looking for confrontations. Nevertheless, we must not yield or cave in. The improvements in the relationship between the Arabs and the United States also include sectors which did not act with intimacy over the years, Syria, the Palestinian establishment.

[Shalev] Are you not worried about the fact that Israel is entering a political process precisely as the administration nurtures closer ties with the Arabs and is at loggerheads with us, perhaps in contrast with the situation that prevailed in the previous decade?

[Shamir] Look, this situation is not advantageous, but we did do something in the past few years. Our good fabric of relations has brought us a lot of good. We have grown much stronger. We are currently standing on much firmer ground. In fact, it is always best to reach such a stage of political negotiations with the Arab countries—or at least start it—regardless of whether or not circumstances are favorable. After all, no one forces us to accept things we do not wish to accept. But I think it bears a great significance for the future; there is historic importance in the actual holding of a meeting which constitutes direct and overt negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. No one deludes himself that once such a process gets started it will end in a snap. On the contrary; there will be great difficulties, crises, and breaks. Still, it is worthwhile to try this out. The understandings and agreements must be reached with the Arabs, not the Americans. We have no conflict with the Americans and we do not need to reach a peace agreement with them. We believe the Americans must help the parties and that their political views should not make an impact in such negotiations.

[Shalev] You have said on a number of occasions that the United States should be an "honest broker." Do you think it will really be one?

[Shamir] We have not yet started, and it has not yet been put to the test. I have great doubts as to whether it could fulfill that role in view of its conduct recently, but there is no better candidate than the United States.

[Shalev] President Bush declared last week that the negotiations would be based on the formula of "territories for peace."

[Shamir] We are not negotiating with the United States. The negotiations will be with the Arab countries. These countries' positions are still a far cry from the current U.S. stand. I think that the mere fact that the Arab countries feel compelled to sit down and negotiate with us will greatly enhance Israel's international standing. These countries have to date avoided this. But without preconditions, of course. The Arabs are still deliberating. They must still overcome all sorts of hang-ups, but we will start the process and I hope the United States will regard the actual convocation of the meeting as an achievement. Later, naturally, it will want to score additional achievements, but it would not want to play a role that will harm Israel's interests.

[Shalev] But according to your views the effort to obtain the return of the territories harms Israel's interests.

[Shamir] It sure does. The United States has one view of the matter, but it depends on the action taken to promote this view. The United States is not negotiating with us. It should not, it is not obliged to, and it must not try to force anything upon us. Moreover, nothing can be forced upon anyone. The times when the nature of relations between countries could be determined by outside elements are over. Peace should be founded on persuading the parties to reach an understanding that will serve the interests of each of them. A settlement reached under duress or coercion will never survive.

[Shalev] Are the Americans not using the loan guarantees we are seeking to resettle new immigrants as a means of political pressure on Israel?

[Shamir] This is really a precedent, especially on such a humane issue as immigrant absorption. It is worrying, it is definitely worrying. I still hope this will not become the general rule, but will remain an exception.

[Shalev] Do we understand that we will not receive the loan guarantees before the date the President mentioned?

[Shamir] The date is not that important. The important thing is that we receive the money we need to resettle the immigrants. I am sorry about this idea of obtaining the guarantees—an excellent idea which on the one hand grants Israel the large sums of money it needs for this purpose and on the other hand deprives U.S. coffers of nothing. The idea is good, it is something special, and it is a pity that we will not be able to make best use of it. I am still hoping we could get it, though. When I talked to several politicians from Europe—and Europe, too, must contribute its share to immigrant absorption—not one of them said no. On the contrary; they said: Why don't you come up with suggestions, we think there is room for them. Of course, right now, in the heat of a very bitter argument with the United States on the issue, this is not the best time to approach Europe, but that time will come.

[Shalev] Have we not made mistakes in our handling of the loan guarantee issue? Should we not have accepted Secretary Baker's request and put off submitting our request, thereby avoiding this public clash?

[Shamir] I do not think there was any reason to defer submission of the request for the loan guarantees. I explained this to Baker. We could not accept a linkage between assistance toward immigrant absorption and political issues. As a matter of principle, we could not accept this. Had we accepted it, I am sure we would have been subjected to serious, serious attacks by our friends in the United States. I said to him: We are going ahead with our request; the rest is up to you. After all, Israel does not decide whether or not the United States gives the guarantees or not. This is something for the administration and Congress to decide upon.

Admittedly, no one anticipated such a sharp and bitter attack by the President. It came as a surprise. But it should be taken as a fact stemming from the nature of political life there, one of the fundamentals of the American system. No U.S. citizen likes to see the presidency's stature lessened. We had no intention of doing that. We did what we did; we submitted the request after consulting with the who's who in the U.S. establishment.

[Shalev] A minister in your cabinet called President Bush an "anti-Semite".

[Shamir] He did not say "anti-Semite." He said there are signs of anti-Semitism in what Bush said. Well, so he said it. After all, Israel is a democracy. We have a coalition government. We do not have a presidential system like in the United States. Second, we must always remember that if peace between Israel and its neighbors really is the aim, and if somebody sees it as a U.S. interest, one must take into account that Israel is not just another state in the Middle East. When the time comes to settle the conflict, one must remember that Israel makes up 50 percent. Therefore, if there is a genuine desire to settle the conflict, then Israel deserves special consideration. If the goal is to decide in favor of one of the sides, then that is a different matter. That, however, requires drawing different conclusions. If the desire is to reach peace, Israel must be given a good feeling, and a feeling of confidence and readiness to trust its friends must be induced.

[Shalev] It is said that one of the reasons for the President's outburst is his built-up anger on the settlement issue.

[Shamir] I do not know if it a matter of anger. I do not think that political decisions are made due to the influence of personal anger. It is clear that there was a link between the guarantees and the persuasion campaign among the Arab states which joined the process. It was a genuine tie, and although the Arabs are very reserved—they do not talk about it, perhaps because they were asked to be reserved—it had a big influence on them. It instilled in them a great deal of trust in the U.S. Administration, which now plans to prove to them that the Arab thesis—dominant for so many years—that whatever happens, the United States will always support Israel, is no longer true with this administration. The guarantees issue proved that. That was the main issue, the main factor.

[Shalev] Anyway, you know that the settlements annoy the administration. (Shamir: "I know, yes, yes, yes.") In such a critical year, in which there is immigrant absorption and the beginning of a political process, not only does Israel continue settlement but increases the pace beyond the former level.

[Shamir] The United States has always opposed settlements, and still we went ahead. This was an issue on which there were differences of opinion, which in the past did not reach a crisis point. This time it did. That was the surprise, but one cannot say it is only due to the settlement problem, especially when we say, and I believe with a great deal of logic, that the settlements are not a problem in themselves, but part of the overall territorial issue in the Israeli-Arab conflict. And if we enter negotiations there will also be discussions on that. So what is the problem, what is all the noise about?

[Shalev] There is a charge that the settlements determine facts on the ground.

[Shamir] What facts? What differences does it make? Those are things that do not change much. What difference does it make if several thousand more residents are added in a year? It does not change the situation. Baker even used it once for his own purposes as an argument in his talks with the Arabs. He told them: Make haste so that you will still have something to negotiate about. I believe that also influenced them. There were several Arab figures who reiterated that argument for internal purposes, declaring that it forces them to hurry up since they do not have infinite time to wait. There were always serious differences of opinion with the United States on matters pertaining to the future territorial stability in the Middle East. That was the case from the beginning. Once there were arguments over the Negev, over Israel's control of the Negev. There were serious differences of opinion over Jerusalem. Even now there is no formal recognition of Israeli control over West Jerusalem. That was always the case and did not disturb the development of friendly relations between the United States and Israel. Not everybody in the United States always agreed to the good relationship, but it developed well. Now, there has been some sort of change. I do not believe it is due to us.

[Shalev] Do you not believe that we sometimes add fuel to the fire through various pronouncements?

[Shamir] There are sometimes things said or this or that step taken which could have been avoided, but they are minor things. They do not determine the substance of the relations.

[Shalev] Israel conditioned its participation in the peace process on a satisfactory solution to the issue of Palestinian representation.

[Shamir] That is one of the subjects that we presented as a condition whose fulfillment is required to advance the negotiations toward a positive outcome, but participation in the conference depends on a Palestinian partner, on its identity. In recent days the entire world has become interested in what is happening at the Palestine National Council, and it is clear that based on what happens there they will or will not not come to the negotiating table.

[Shalev] Is the situation not such that anyway we will be facing the PLO in one form or another?

[Shamir] We are opposed that the PLO will be the dominant element which conducts the negotiations. We said clearly that we do not want negotiations with the

PLO because of the simple reason that the PLO is uninterested in peace, certainly not genuine peace, and we have not changed our positions.

[Shalev] I believe that we are burying our heads in the sand on that issue.

[Shamir] We are not burying our heads in the sand. I know full well with whom we are dealing, with whom we are talking, and with whom we are not talking. We have always said that we are prepared to talk with people who represent the Arab population of Eretz Yisra'el, and that is what we will go by.

[Shalev] Is a peace conference a certainty?

[Shamir] First, it must be said flatly that it is not a conference. There are those who would go further and call it an international conference. It is something very important aimed at direct bilateral negotiations without preconditions between Israel and its neighbors, each of them separately. The collective element here refers only to the start of the process. There will be one gathering, which all the participants will attend, and each will make a speech. One can assume that in that speech the parties will present themselves and detail their demands, after which it will end. There will be no argument over these issues, and the sides will get down to direct negotiations. This is where the fate of the process will be decided. It was also decided that about two weeks later a series of meetings on regional issues should start. It is still doubtful whether it will take place or how it will take place, but it is a good thing in itself. If we take into account the large investment in energy and effort by U.S. diplomacy and the views being heard in the Arab world, it will probably take place.

[Shalev] Do you believe it will be possible to make progress in some form without Israel's being willing to give up territory?

[Shamir] That we will see in the future. All the sides are coming without preconditions. Syria has also not given up a single one of its ideas or any of its outlooks toward Israel, and we have not changed anything. We will therefore see how things develop.

[Shalev] You referred to the historic opportunity of sitting around the negotiating table, but if the negotiations get bogged down from the start, will there in fact be a retreat because it will appear that the attempt failed?

[Shamir] There is always such a risk in all negotiations. I look at what is happening in Yugoslavia, where there is a cease-fire and then the fighting resumes. Those are things that must be started because there is no alternative. The alternative to negotiations is confrontation, so negotiations are preferable. We should not be concerned about difficulties in such negotiations, especially since we are going with open eyes and no illusions, realizing that it will be difficult and that there are serious differences of opinion among all the sides. That is known to the Arab side and the Israeli side. So what is the risk here? Neither side will surprise the other with something that will worsen the situation. Surprises can only be good.

[Shalev] Are you apprehensive about the fate of the government in view of the willingness to go to the conference?

[Shamir] It is clear that political developments and changes can take place in a country such as ours, with our type of system. This should be taken into consideration.

[Shalev] Can a caretaker government also go to a conference?

[Shamir] This is a question. We should wait and see. It will depend on the composition of such a government and what it is going for. There will be many issues that we will have to decide in due course, when problems arise. It is not worthwhile to say anything in advance. At any rate, I am surely opposed to tying political developments to the political process. These are two separate issues. Political moves should not be guided—or rather, Israel's moves in the negotiations should not be guided—by victories or defeats in internal political campaigns. This matter is too serious to be used for manipulation. This is what I think.

[Shalev] In this case, would it perhaps be worthwhile to consider inviting the Labor Party to join the government?

[Shamir] This is not a tactical matter. A coalition has always been established on the basis of agreements, an agreed plan, agreed positions. The dissolution of the national unity government at the time was not the result of a caprice, but due to disagreements we could not overcome. I believe the situation has not changed in this regard.

[Shalev] A final question, a question you usually do not answer: Do the latest developments, the critical situation in which we find ourselves, affect your considerations regarding your political future?

[Shamir] I do not think we are in a critical condition, if by this you mean a grave or difficult situation. On the contrary, the situation is generally good. Our condition is one of growth: The population is growing, and there is economic growth, despite all difficulties. Still, the problems we will have to face are very serious. In my opinion, this need not affect my personal decisions, since I do not evade serious problems, on the one hand, and on the other, I do not court them. I am not saying that I am the only person who can cope with such problems. God forbid that I should think so. So this will not decide matters for me. My continued political activity will depend on the wishes of the political camp to which I belong, as well as my personal feelings. Can I tell what will happen in a year's time?

Paper Cites Shamir on Conflict With U.S.

TA2709115791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Sep 91 p B2

[Article by Yosef Harif: "In the U.S. View, Israel Is No Longer a Strategic Asset"]

[Text] "We will not be grabbed by the throat, and we will not base our decision on a checkbook!" Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this week during one of his consultations. Several days earlier, the prime minister had predicted that "the Americans will come back to their senses and the crisis will pass," but not everyone supported that optimistic evaluation. There are those who believe that the situation may get worse because the changes taking place among U.S. foreign policymakers are not the result of some minor and passing misunderstanding.

They apparently are due to a development that began with the U.S. Administration's realization that Israel is no longer a strategic asset—a doctrine which has guided U.S. policy in the region over the past decade and which Ronald Reagan put the following way: "Israel is a natural ally of the United States and the final **deterrent** against the expansion of Soviet hegemony in the region....(It) is the sole **strategic asset** in the region that the United States can depend on." When George Bush was elected President, he praised the relations his predecessor formed with Israel, but that was when the USSR was still considered a superpower that could threaten "to expand its hegemony."

Under the new circumstances, Israel is no longer a vital strategic asset which must be taken into consideration. Moreover, one of the ministers said in the aforementioned consultation, Bush has a positive attitude toward the Arabs and is sensitive to the PLO. Furthermore, from the narrow, personal point of view, Bush does not get excited about identifying with Israel. "The Jewish vote" means nothing to him.

Shamir prefers to continue to follow developments and study them in depth before deciding on his positions regarding the "guarantees affair." He told his interlocutors: "I am not deluding myself; I will not torture myself. We must find the money and the means. We finally have over 4 million Jews here. We cannot always be dependent on others."

For a moment he recalled his exchange with Baker about two weeks earlier. Baker raised the settlement issue, and the prime minister retorted: Why do you always return to that subject? We settle everywhere because this is **our land.**

Baker: If this is your land, then I do not have to finance you!

This week, when the prime minister made his pronouncement that "we will settle everywhere in those territories that belong to us, and Jews will populate them up to the horizon's edge," he was asked why he had to make such a provocative declaration.

"I do not con anyone," he replied. "What I say tete-a-tete I also say in public. What will they do to us? Remove us by force? Expel us from here? You cannot force a people to accept things it does not want. You cannot stop our actions for a period of time."

Shamir believes that the peace conference cannot be dismissed altogether. "If we do not attend the conference, they will run to the Security Council and immediately say: "The Jews do not want peace." Furthermore, what is a conference? Two days of speeches. Nobody will listen to anybody else, and afterward there will be meetings and discussions. Nothing much will change. They will play a word game with us. What can happen?"

What, then, can come of the direct negotiations if each side insists on its position?

On this, Shamir said: "So what am I expected to do: change my view? I say and will say the same things before the conference, during the conference, and after the conference. I am not ashamed. That is my truth. In the words of Rabbi Nahman of Breslau: 'The important thing is not to be afraid...'"

The Americans are still finding it hard to sell one thing and then the opposite to the sides. After the understandings Baker reached here, we could have signed a memorandum of understanding. There was nothing in the Israeli draft proposal that Baker had not promised orally, but instead of signing, he sent an emissary to Israel with a counterproposal. And he himself is still busy in an attempt to entice the Palestinians—while negotiating with the PLO!—to support his agreement with Israel. In other words, the Palestinian representatives should not be "outsiders" (another expression for the word "deportees" used in the past), East Jerusalem residents, or PLO members, and should be part of the Jordanian delegation.

During this week's inner cabinet meeting, the ministers waited anxiously to hear "what is happening," but even before the meeting started, the prime minister did not hide his secrets: "They will not bring us to our knees. We will not go to Munich. There were those at that time who believed they were bringing peace."

I asked the prime minister: Therefore, sir, in the final analysis, will we go to the conference?

Shamir replied: "There is still no certainty that we will attend. Outstanding issues still remain to be discussed."

I pointed out that they are about to issue invitations.

Shamir answered: "Well, is it enough to issue invitations? They must also be accepted. I have already said: We will not be grabbed by the throat!"

Somebody in the prime minister's circle recalled that Beni Begin once said that "a man like Yitzhaq Shamir, at 76, will not change and will not alter his views."

Shamir noted: "Perhaps they (the Americans) are waiting for 'developments' because of my age.... when I no longer hold the reins... It is possible that somebody is taking that into account, but we will prove this to be wrong. Besides, what will happen after I have gone—perhaps an even stronger man will take over!"

Levi Meets Pankin: Ties To Resume 'Very Soon'

TA2709172691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The Soviet Union will resume full political ties with Israel very soon. This statement was made by USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin after a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi at the UN building in New York. In reply to our correspondent 'Oded Ben- 'Ami's question as to what is delaying the resumption of ties, Pankin said that there are no obstacles and that political ties will be renewed at an appropriate date before the regional peace conference is convened, probably next month.

Minister Levi expressed the hope that a channel of communications with his counterpart will be forged to help promote matters common to Israel, the USSR, and the entire Middle East.

Referring to reports that Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni had participated in PLO debates in Algiers, Foreign Minister Levi said that although Israel has permitted Palestinian representatives of the territories to travel to Europe and the United States, they are fully aware of the consequences awaiting them if they violate the law by attending PLO debates in Algiers.

Minister Levi reiterated the position that Israel reserves the right to examine the list of Palestinian delegates to the peace conference before it is convened and not to negotiate with anyone with whom it does not wish to sit down.

Swiss Paper Says MIA Bodies in Austria

TA2809093891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] The Swiss weekly (JUEDISCHE RUNDSCHAU), published in Basel, reports today that the bodies of Rahamim Alshekh and Yosef Fink, the Israeli soldiers who have been missing for over five years, were brought to Vienna and are currently being examined by the forensic institute of the city's university. According to the weekly, Hizballah delivered the bodies to Austria on condition that they not be sent to Israel until it makes some gesture and frees more Palestinian detainees, including Shaykh 'Ubayd. This report was transmitted by the AP agency and has not been confirmed by any other source.

Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, said in response that Israel recently made a gesture to aid the UN secretary general's efforts to free the Israeli MIA's and POW's and the Western hostages. Despite this gesture, Iran and the organizations subordinated to it did not keep their promises to provide unequivocal evidence concerning MIA Yosef Fink and clear information about the fate of navigator Ron Arad. Israel has expressed its willingness to make additional gestures, but it is expecting Iran and its subordinate organizations first to meet the commitments they have made.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that so far, no new information concerning the Israeli POW's and MIA's has been obtained.

'Psychological Warfare' Seen

TA2909055791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Uri Lubrani hopes to receive information on the two Israeli MIA's in the next few days and hopes that this would lead to a breakthrough on the hostage issue. Lubrani made it plain that Israel expects to get information about the whereabouts of Yosef Fink, although it does not foresee receiving that information within a day or two. As for navigator Ron Arad, he hopes that the process has begun, but cannot say anything with certainty. He thinks information about that serviceman will also not arrive within a few days.

Israel knows nothing about the transfer of the bodies of missing soldiers Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alshekh. This was reported by Israeli sources in reaction to a report in the Swiss weekly JUEDISCHE RUNDSCHAU that the two servicemen's bodies had been transferred to Vienna. The Israeli sources told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that no new information on the POW's and MIA's has arrived and that the latest reports are merely psychological warfare intended to apply pressure. They emphasized that Israel will not release additional detainees until it receives full information on the POW's and MIA's, as agreed upon with the UN secretary general.

Meridor on PLO, Palestinian Representatives

TA2809113791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by 'Adi Talmor; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Talmor] Good morning, Justice Minister Dan Meridor.

[Meridor] Good morning.

[Talmor] Last week you returned from the United States. What did you do there?

[Meridor] I went there to address a conference that dealt with the peace process in the Middle East; it was attended by Israelis, Arabs, and Americans.

[Talmor] Was there any secret mission for the prime minister?

[Meridor] There was no secret mission.

[Talmor] Over the weekend there was a major outcry over the reports of Faysal al-Husayni's and Hanan 'Ashrawi's trip to Algiers. It seems puzzling. It seems almost like an exercise in make-believe. Do you in the Israeli Government really not know who and what the two represent, and who issues and will continue to issue the instructions to the Palestinian representatives for the peace talks?

[Meridor] I think there is some mistake here. The gentlemen who live in East Jerusalem will not be part of the Palestinian representation in the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the peace talks. This was a condition we made and it was accepted by the Americans. I believe that the Americans will not withdraw from this condition. That is why we will not talk to the people you have just mentioned in the framework of peace talks. We are not playing make-believe. It is important that this be explained. We do not believe that negotiations with the PLO stand any chance. We are aware of the PLO's goal.

These very weeks, the PLO, the branch of Fatah-'Arafat, sent the terror squad—of which 'Arafat was fully aware—on an act of terrorism in the northern part of Israel. The squad was intercepted in south Lebanon. The same PLO is sending terror squads to fight us while intending to sit with us and try to achieve perhaps the same goal at the negotiating table. We have no intention of holding any contacts with this organization because we truly believe that there is no chance of reaching an agreement with it which any Israeli—not only those who support this government—could live with. That is why it is important not to play games. It is very important that the members of the joint delegation who will sit with us be people who represent the interests of those who live here and not the interests of the leadership abroad, which is mainly concerned with the right of return and other such issues.

[Talmor] How can we know who are the representatives of the residents if you do not allow elections there? Who will appoint them as representatives?

[Meridor] Just the opposite is true: We have offered elections and they rejected the idea. I think that you made some mistake in your question. We have offered that elections be held there. It is an Israeli offer, made not only in Camp David, but also in our initiative of 1989 by the unity government of the Likud and the Alignment. We offered elections to determine the representatives; they oppose this. Not only the PLO rejected this. No Arab country has agreed to that. They do not want this. The PLO is probably afraid of such elections there. We wanted elections. I assume that when we reach talks and negotiations, the questions you raised here will surface: Who will be the representative? How will the framework for self-rule be determined?

[Talmor] All reservations notwithstanding, I believe that even you, Mr. Meridor, will agree that in this generation the PLO is the main and central political expression of the Palestinians, even if many in Israel view it to be a terror organization. Am I correct?

[Meridor] We must understand what you are saying. If it is true, and all Palestinians stand behind the PLO, meaning the PLO demands; and if it is true that the PLO has just said that it demands the right of return—as we could all see on television—it means that there is no one to talk to. If there are no Arabs who will agree not to talk about the right of return, or if they start talking about the return of 1 million Arabs or more inside the Green Line boundaries—meaning that they are seeking the destruction of the State of Israel after, God forbid, they are given power over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—if this really is their only line, then there is no one to talk to. I hope this is not their line. It is true that the PLO represents this line. If all of them maintain this line, we have a serious problem of not having a partner who is willing to live with us. If there are among them some who will not follow this central PLO line, we are looking for them. We hope that in the context of Jordan—which is a neighboring country—we will be able to reach a Jordanian-Israeli arrangement in which the problem of the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be solved. I believe this is the most realistic of all available offers, save one: an absolute Israeli surrender.

[Talmor] Hafiz al-Asad also speaks of the return of the entire Golan Heights to Syria—will you not talk to him as well?

[Meridor] Al-Asad hears the Israeli Government say that the Golan will not be given back to Syria, and he is willing to talk to us. I believe it is very nice that he comes to talk to us knowing that we have no intention of giving him back the Golan Heights.

[Talmor] So, the bottom line: Do you believe that the Palestinian representatives for negotiations with Israel at a peace conference and later will not represent the PLO?

[Meridor] I hope that the positions the representatives of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—who will be part of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—who come for negotiations with us will represent positions with which we can live. We cannot live with the PLO stands because, as I said before, everybody knows what the PLO is and what it wants. We have long experience with Jordan. It is now the 21st anniversary of Black September. It has been 21 years of a relatively quiet border; of better relations than could have been expected; of sharing a mutual interest to maintain such relations and a common problem in Judaea and Samaria with residents who are Jordanian citizens residing in an area under our control. Also, there is an Israeli willingness to attain a solution we call

autonomy or self-rule, which does not give us all that we want and does not give them all that they want; which does not touch upon the difficult emotional and ideological issues; which provides a practical solution. We believe this is a good way. Obviously, the PLO opposes any such move because it will not solve its basic problem: It will not be able to send the refugees from Burj al- Barajinah [in Lebanon] back to Yavne and Ashdod; it will have to leave them there. It could, however, be a very significant change in the lives of the residents in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, if they take the road we are offering. There is an essential difference of interests between them, who live here, and those on the outside, at least in the interim stage. This is the basis of our whole plan. I hope it stands a chance, if we insist on matters of importance to us and are flexible where we can.

[Talmor] So, if al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi return to Israel and it becomes apparent that they went to Algiers, what should be done with them?

[Meridor] Allow me to repeat what the chief of police said: There are people in charge of investigations. I do not believe that ministers should be engaged in investigations and trials. We have the police and the state attorney for that. Their decisions are not subordinated to the political level. If there is information that a felony has been committed, such as violating this particular law, the police will certainly take action and investigate. And, if it concludes that it can move for trial, the state attorney will make his decision. In any event, I think things should develop normally. Putting anyone on trial should not become a political instrument. If a crime has been committed and sufficient evidence is gathered, we can deal with the issue of putting them on trial. This is not something that ministers should decide.

[Talmor] Can they be put on trial at all in view of their current status? After all, they represent the Palestinians in their discussions with the U.S. secretary of state.

[Meridor] They represent whoever they represent in their meetings with the U.S. secretary of state, they are not PLO representatives in these talks. The United States, at least for now, is not talking to the PLO—or at least this is what it is telling us. Throughout this move with the Americans, as we told them and as they accepted, the PLO is not a partner. I can attest that in meetings I held with the Americans, the secretary of state and others, we told them: If the PLO is in, we are out. There was no disagreement on this. That is why they are not holding any contacts with the PLO. They are talking to Arabs who live with us here. We may have a disagreement over that. They live in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, other places. The talks are held here. We do not ban anyone from talking. There is, however, a great difference between this and representing the PLO.

[Talmor] I asked whether they could be detained and tried in view of their special status right now.

[Meridor] Are you suggesting that the State of Israel have two sets of rules, one for common people and the other for people with a special status? I would not suggest that.

[Talmor] Last week you returned from the United States, and suddenly—according to public statements by members of the Israeli Government—there is no longer a Green Line. What does this mean?

[Meridor] I believe this is the most minimalist declaration an Israeli leader can make these days. It is the Labor Party's stand that we will in no way return to the Green Line boundaries, or so I heard. This is the position maintained by all the Zionist parties in Israel, perhaps with the exception of one very small party. They are all saying: We will never return to the Green Line. One is mentioning the Allon Plan, another speaks of the Jordan Rift Valley, one talks of Jerusalem, another of the Golan Heights, they are all saying that. What is new about that?

[Talmor] This can be interpreted to mean that the territories taken in 1967 are, in practice, part of the State of Israel, although legally speaking they are not. After all, you are the justice minister.

[Meridor] Legally, it is true. We have not applied Israeli rule to most of these territories; it was applied in Jerusalem in 1967 and to the Golan Heights 13 years later. The rest of the territories are not a formal, legal part of the territory of the State of Israel. They are under military rule, which is well known. There is a big difference, however, between this undisputed legal fact and our willingness to make compromises. We are in no way willing to return to the Green Line—and I believe I am not speaking on behalf of the government alone; the main opposition party, Labor, is saying the same. We in the Likud are saying: We do not want to withdraw from the Jordan River, we want to keep Judaea and Samaria. The Labor Party is saying that they are willing to withdraw from part of the territory, the densely populated areas, and so on. There is, nevertheless, a national consensus that we are not returning to the Green Line. This is what has been said, and I fail to see why this should cause such excitement. This has been the Israeli stand since 1967.

[Talmor] Justice Minister Dan Meridor, thank you.

[Meridor] Thank you.

Palestinians Surprised Talks With Baker Canceled

TA2909112891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni were surprised upon hearing the reports that their meeting with Secretary Baker had been canceled, claiming that they have been told nothing of it. Speaking to our London correspondent Rafi Rosenfeld, Hanan 'Ashrawi said that last night she held consultations with U.S. figures regarding the date for the meeting with the

secretary of state, and there was no mention of a cancellation of that meeting. She pointed out that the initiative for the meeting in the United States came from Secretary Baker and that it was discussed in their earlier meeting in Amman.

Faysal al-Husayni told our correspondent that the meeting may be postponed because of the secretary's schedule, but said he did not know that it had been canceled.

Possible Early Elections Under Consideration

Shamir Meets Right-Wing Ministers

TA2909112591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Here is a report on the possibility of early elections: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is currently in session with Tehiya's Minister Yuval Ne'eman and with Moledet's Rehav'am Ze'evi. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the two had asked to meet with the prime minister at his earliest convenience. They intend to discuss with him their parties' positions on the political process.

Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen says that the prime minister is trying to intimidate the right-wing parties by raising the specter of the Labor Party's forming a government. She maintains that this proves that the prime minister is indeed running to a peace conference instead of elections.

Coalition Chairperson Sara Doron issued a communique a short while ago, saying that the Likud would be ready to contemplate early elections. She explained that such a move would be taken following consultations with the other coalition partners.

Minister Arye Der'i of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] said that if the prime minister decides that this is the right time to end the government's term, his movement would support it, but SHAS will not initiate moves in that direction. Minister Der'i explained that his party would support the cabinet in the political process. Nonetheless, he made it clear that all the moves depend on the decision of the Council of Torah Scholars.

More on Rightists' Protests

TA2909062291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Senior sources in the Likud are expressing concern over the future of the Shamir government if the right-wing parties carry out their threat to leave the coalition in protest of the Middle East conference. The sources say this would leave the Likud with the ultraorthodox parties, which they believe prefer a government headed by the opposition Labor Party. Qol Yisra'el correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party has already ruled out the possibility that it will join Labor; instead, the SHAS sources say they prefer early elections. The same sentiments are being reported in Agudat Yisra'el. That party, however, is indicating that it also opposes early Knesset elections.

Tehiya leader Professor Yuval Ne'eman has called for early elections in light of the latest developments in the peace process. He is also urging that Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, who addressed the Palestine National Council gathering in Algiers, be brought to trial. [passage omitted]

[A similar report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 29 September adds that "Minister Yuval Ne'eman says that the noose is tightening, which is why his party is demanding that the government say no to Baker. He believes only Israel doubts that the negotiations would bring us back to the Green Line in Jerusalem as well." Ne'eman reportedly believes that "early elections should be held and perhaps even a kind of referendum because the Likud was not authorized by its voters to return Judaea, Samaria, the Golan, Jerusalem, and the Gaza District, and is acting in contravention of its platform.

["Minister Zvulun Hammer of the National Religious Party said that the Likud is not about to cede Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; instead, it is giving the negotiations a chance. He believes if the three right-wing parties bolt the coalition, his party would grudgingly support early elections, because Israel does not need elections at this juncture."]

Ze'evi—Moledet Will Not Withdraw

TA2909141991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi has announced that his movement, Moledet, will not withdraw from the government. Ze'evi said such a move may result in a tragedy for years on end by making possible the establishment of an Alignment-led government. To prevent such a possibility, Moledet will continue to support the government. Minister Ze'evi said this after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Also participating in the meeting was Tehiya Minister Yuval Ne'eman. No details of the meeting were released.

Tzomet Head on Change in Stand

TA2809094191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Report on interview with Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan by Hayim Hecht; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Hecht] What is the connection between Hanan 'Ashrawi and the level of Israel's water resources? This question is no joke at all. Minister Refa'el Eytan's following remarks indicate that an Israeli refusal to Baker might turn our lawns yellow. Some three months

ago, to the surprise of many, Minister Eytan voted for saying yes to James Baker's offers. Today, he is withdrawing his support.

[Eytan] I am not ashamed of having to change my position. The picture was totally different three months ago. During these three months we did not do what I said should be done—not as a precondition, though. At the same time, we saw what the Americans did do during the same period of time: They maneuvered us into a corner, making us confront all the rest. There is no honest mediation here; there is no accepted arbitration. Once this becomes apparent, opinions must be changed.

[Hecht] Eytan believes that Tzomet movement's withdrawal of its support for attending the peace conference destabilizes Yitzhaq Shamir's majority on this issue and, in fact, pulls the rug from under this government's continued existence. Eytan understands that such a move has a price tag in dollars.

[Eytan] We have to choose between quality of life and water; travel abroad and development and immigrant absorption. It is impossible to maintain or even raise the level of our standard of living while asking for U.S. handouts.

[Hecht] At the same time, Eytan stresses, standing firm against Bush and Baker has its political benefits, the price of which cannot be named in dollars.

[Eytan] In order to exist, we have to reduce our dependence on U.S. aid. The alternative, on the other hand, is that if we continue to stay on our knees, begging for money, we will find ourselves within the 1947 borders very quickly. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri Comments on PNC Decisions, Delegation

JN2809182891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri by correspondent Habis Samawi in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Masri] The Palestine National Council [PNC] is the highest Palestinian authority that makes major and important decisions and draws up the outline for the next stage for the Executive Committee. We have all observed the PNC discussions, and we all realized that the PNC dealt with developments positively and realistically. The PNC adopted several decisions, which, we believe, will help and contribute to the implementation of international legitimacy. These decisions will also contribute, God willing, to lifting the suffering of the Palestinian people. Since Jordan, the Palestinians, and the PLO are partners in the future, I believe that these decisions, which rest on certain constants that we, the PLO, and the Palestinians share, will help support the right course to which we aspire and which will, God willing, end in Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

[Samawi] In light of the PNC decisions, which observers said have facilitated the way for the conference, do you, Mr. Prime Minister, think that it is time for the frontline states to hold a summit meeting, especially since the Arab foreign ministers did indeed meet in New York?

[Al-Masri] Yes, we always call for Arab meetings on all levels, because they enhance coordination and interaction among Arabs. We are approaching a critical, important stage in our history and the history of the Palestine question. There are specific Arab parties that will take part in that conference. That is why we think it is important that these parties should coordinate at the highest levels. Indeed, the time has come for the frontline states to meet at the foreign minister level first to arrange topics that to be discussed and to arrange a summit meeting. It seems that the possibility of holding this summit is very good.

[Samawi] In what way do you expect Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to accelerate toward intensifying efforts and joint action so that we might have more weight when the peace conference convenes?

[Al-Masri] First of all, there is coordination. It has intensified in the recent weeks. But after the recommendations, or the decisions, made by the PNC and the formation of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, it is natural and self evident that we should assume this acceleration would be faster. I expect Jordanian-Palestinian meetings to take place within a short period so as to coordinate and reach an understanding on the scope and way of addressing the conference and the ensuing events. As in the past, Palestinian delegations are frequently visiting Jordan at the highest levels. So, I believe this activity will increase very shortly, delegations will visit us, and we will, God willing, form a joint delegation.

[Samawi] Given the outcome of the PNC meetings, which you have referred to, do you think that there will be no delay in addressing invitations for the peace conference in October. And, in case there is a delay in the conference, what do you expect will happen?

[Al-Masri] We have no information on a fixed date for the conference. It is being said that it is scheduled for the end of October. It seems this is the most likely date. Since one of the major parties—the Palestinians—has decided to support and head for the conference, it seems that the date might not change, unless there are emergency circumstances to cause a delay. Even if this happens, however, it will be a very short delay.

[Samawi] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Al-Masri] You are welcome.

Nonparticipation in Peace Conference Urged

NC2809185091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1809 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Amman, 28 Sep (MENA)—A number of Jordanian deputies who are members of the National Arab Democratic Grouping [NADG] have called on Jordan not to participate in the proposed Middle East conference, planned for October.

Three NADG members held a news conference in Amman today and called on the government of Tahir al-Masri to resign, saying that the government is heading toward accepting a capitulationist settlement with Israel in accordance with U.S. terms and specifications. The same government, the deputies charged, is unable to resolve such domestic problems as poverty, unemployment, and corruption.

The NADG deputies called on all Jordanian ministers to resign immediately from al-Masri's government if the prime minister refuses to step down. The deputies expressed their support to the Palestinian intifadah fighting the Israeli occupation and called on all honorable people to stand against Zionism.

Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri recently said he plans make limited changes in his cabinet.

The Jordanian House of Representatives, elected in November 1989, contains hard-line factions opposed to any peaceful settlement with Israel.

'Leftist' Deputies Urge al-Masri Resignation

JN2909060491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Sep 91 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Amman—Two leftist deputies at the Lower House of Parliament Saturday called on Prime Minister

Tahir al-Masri to resign "because Jordan has no interest in joining the peace process."

Deputies Fakhri Qa'war and Mansur Murad, both from the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), also urged fellow ministers to resign "because the government is going ahead towards a settlement of surrender."

In a statement read out at a press conference, Mr. Qa'war charged that Mr. al-Masri had told JANDA, which has five ministers in the government, that there was no settlement for the Palestine question and that the U.S. and President George Bush "were only maneuvring."

There has been news reports that Mr. al-Masri was about to reshuffle his cabinet and that certain JANDA ministers will resign. On Friday, Mr. al-Masri told the French news agency (AFP) that the reshuffle is "routine and limited."

Mr. Qa'war said he and his colleagues—Mr. Murad and deputy Husni al-Shayyab, who could not attend the press conference because he was travelling—were not talking on behalf of JANDA.

"We (JANDA) held meetings but did not reach a decision" on whether to remain in the government, Mr. Qa'war said. He said that there were different points of view at JANDA.

He added that he understood that Jordan was under tremendous pressure to attend the conference but said he saw no reason why Jordan should attend. "The Arab position is weak, the Arabs are defeated" and any settlement will be in the interests of Israel and the U.S., the leader of the new world order, he said.

Asked what alternative he is offering if Jordan did not attend, Mr. Qa'war said "We have no alternative." Mr. Murad added: "Going to the peace conference will not save us of all sorts of pressures. What will save us is to learn the lessons of the past, especially the last one, the U.S. insistence on destroying Iraq." "We should build a new and modern Jordan in which the people take their role in facing the challenges," he said.

In their statement to the press, the deputies stressed that only more democracy and people participation will ensure a stronger Jordan. "We must put an end to bureaucracy, corruption and bribery in the government administrative body. People's freedoms must be guaranteed—and people's potentials must be released," the statement said.

Al-Masri Cabinet Reshuffle Said Set for 29 Sep

JN2709183591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has affirmed in a statement to our radio that he intends to effect a cabinet reshuffle soon. He did not fix a date for this reshuffle. However, informed sources indicated that the reshuffle will take place on Sunday [29 September].

This reshuffle comes in the wake of the resignation of three ministers in protest of Jordan's participation in the peace conference scheduled to be held toward the end of October.

The prime minister termed the expected reshuffle as a routine measure. He indicated that this reshuffle will be a limited one, and that it will not include the important political portfolios, such as the Foreign Ministry, whose occupant will remain 'Abdallah al-Nusur, contrary to what has been circulated in this regard. Besides, a new minister will take the Information Ministry's portfolio after it is separated from the Culture Ministry's portfolio. According to informed sources, four ministers will leave the cabinet, whereas six others will join it. The six ministers will take the four vacant portfolios, in addition to the Information Ministry's portfolio after it is separated from the Culture Ministry's portfolio, and the Supply Ministry's portfolio after it is separated from the Trade and Industry Ministry's portfolio. The ministers who resigned for political reasons are Awqaf Minister Ra'if Najm, Municipal Affairs Minister Salim al-Zu'bi, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, who belongs to the Democratic Alliance [Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance], which decided in a meeting it held to continue to support al-Masri's Government. As for the fourth outgoing minister, it is Higher Education Minister Muhammad al-Hammuri who will leave the government for purely administrative reasons.

Among the new six ministers, an ambassador working abroad will enter the cabinet. He will be assigned the Ministry of State for Cabinet Affairs. He will also serve as the government's official spokesman. As for the powers of the new information minister, they will be confined to domestic information affairs. This will be the first reshuffle in al-Masri's government which was formed in June.

Trial of 'Soldiers of Muhammad' To Begin 30 Sep

LD3009093891 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Athens, Sept. 30, IRNA—The trial of 18 members of a group known as "Jund Muhammad" (soldiers of Muhammad), is to begin in Amman Monday, a journalist told IRNA by phone from the Jordanian capital.

Jordanian authorities had arrested 99 persons last August on accusation of forming an armed group, but 88 of them were released after it was found that they had no connection with "Jund Muhammad." According to Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-ASWAT Sunday, three of the accused participated in the Jihad in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Guarantee 'Formula' Said Reached With U.S.

NC2709192491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly. Following the meeting, al-Hirawi said that Kelly visited him to inform the Lebanese side about the guarantees that the Lebanese Government had asked for regarding Lebanon's independence within its internationally recognized borders.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and U.S. Ambassador to Beirut Ryan Crocker were present at the meeting. Following the meeting, al-Hirawi expressed the hope that the U.S. messages will be translated into concrete facts so that Lebanon may be assured about its future.

The meeting between al-Hirawi and Kelly, which lasted for approximately two hours, was the third between the two officials. Prior to that meeting, al-Hirawi said that during his meeting with U.S. President George Bush he had asked the latter for clarifications on various subjects, particularly regarding the implementation of Resolution 425 in the south.

Following the meeting with Kelly, Minister Buwayz said: We have reached a formula guaranteeing Lebanon's rights in terms of its independence and sovereignty on its soil within its internationally recognized borders.

Buwayz added: We also have reached complete understanding with the U.S. side regarding the complete separation of Resolution 425 from the Middle East peace conference.

Fadlallah Questions Claims

NC2709175591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah commented on the three government leaders' visit to New York in his Friday sermon today. He said the Lebanese delegation has failed to obtain anything. He cast doubt on the claim that the delegation had obtained guarantees.

'Allamah Fadlallah added that the statements made by Lebanese officials are merely a smokescreen and intended only for internal consumption. He noted that the United States will not approve the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 except in the context of direct Lebanese-Israeli negotiations.

Fadlallah asserted that the political mentality of the current ruling class in Lebanon is still servile and has failed to give the Lebanese people dignity and pride. He noted that numerous Lebanese officials know nothing about dignity and pride, although they know much about commerce.

Urges Rejection of Conference

NC2809111091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyid Fadlallah has said that the United States is pressuring the Palestinians through the Arabs to accept a peace conference. He told the Palestinians: Reject participation in the conference and you will gain more than you lose and will continue to hold the title to the land. Fadlallah called on all rejectionist Palestinian forces to say no to participation in the conference because if they do participate the cause will have been being driven to the altar.

He pointed out that the Lebanese delegation's travel to New York to secure guarantees on implementing Resolution 425 will achieve nothing.

Fadlallah denounced Bush's call to the UN General Assembly to revoke a resolution equating Zionism with racism and to call it a humanitarian movement. His eminence said that Zionism is not only racist but so is U.S. policy because it seeks to waste the Palestinian cause in the Jews' interest and to provide financial aid to Israel more than it would had Israel been an American state.

His eminence decried Lebanese leaders' statements in New York, saying that they are a smokescreen. The United States, he said, will not agree to implement Resolution 425 without conditions and Lebanon's participation in a peace conference, adding that the United States (?wants) Lebanon to recognize Israel and share water with it.

The future to which we are heading is that in which Israel will be given whatever it wants from Lebanon, Fadlallah concluded, adding that the Lebanese officials' narrow minds will not give the Lebanese people pride and dignity.

Karami Views Results of Talks

NC2909091291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Lebanese presidential delegation returned to Beirut today after having attended the UN General Assembly session. [passage omitted]

Speaking to our radio before the plane landed in Beirut, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami summed up the outcome of the visit: Resolution 425 has nothing to do with the peace conference. Karami added that during talks with U.S. President Bush, his team, and Ambassador Kelly, a clarity of vision and decision was evident. The prime minister said that the visit had achieved its intent in this respect.

The prime minister commented that the establishment of a fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon was discussed in detail with all officials and at all levels, adding: Everybody was very understanding about the fund. Karami said he hopes the fund will be established next month. He expects the fund to include both cash and in-kind payments.

New York Visit, Results Praised

NC3009083291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Unattributed Commentary: "The Outcome of the New York Visit"]

[Excerpts] Lebanon's participation in the meetings of the UN General Assembly achieved what President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami sought on the practical and moral levels. On the practical level, the leaders were able to secure written U.S. guarantees for the implementation of UN Resolution 425 and for separating this resolution from the efforts being made to implement Resolutions 242 and 338. Furthermore, Lebanon's participation in the conference for a just and comprehensive Middle East peace will have nothing to do with any discussion on the resolution concerning the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the south and western al-Biqa' and the reactivation of the cease-fire agreement because the resolution involves a totally separate issue.

Confidence has been strengthened that efforts will be made to bring about this withdrawal as a separate issue. This is a legitimate right endorsed by the United Nations and supported by the decision-making capitals of the world, particularly the United States. This means that by the New York visit Lebanon has achieved national gains which strengthen Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and internationally-recognized borders. The written U.S. guarantees mean that efforts will be made to implement the resolution on an Israeli withdrawal and that Lebanon can be assured regarding the future developments and efforts to convene the peace conference.

President al-Hirawi, Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Karami have also been able to lift the U.S. ban on economic cooperation and air traffic between the two countries. This really means that Lebanon has regained its health and that the reasons cooperation was ended between the two countries no longer exist, and Washington has recognized this fact. The leaders were also able to promote efforts to establish the aid fund for reconstruction and development, particularly for the infrastructure. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz stayed behind in New York to follow up this issue on the Arab and international levels to achieve tangible results. The leaders held consultations with many key political and economic figures and with Lebanese community members to give them a true picture of the stability and peace prevailing in Lebanon following an era of war and conflict and after achieving national unity and imposing its legitimate authority through the Army over all Lebanese territory, except the border strip. The international community now needs to press for the implementation of the resolution calling for Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal.

These facts refute any claim that no practical results were achieved during the New York visit. No one expects the desired achievements to be made by simply pressing a button or waving a magic wand. The written assurances for action secured are sufficient to enable the government to proceed forward to achieve tangible results. [passage omitted]

All this reinforces the belief in the benefit and usefulness of the New York visit, and that it was a national duty which should be made following a long tragic war. What has been achieved as a result of this visit strengthens confidence in the imminent removal of all the effects of the war, foremost the termination of the occupation of the border strip.

'Well-Informed' Source Views Hostage Situation

NC2709171191 Paris AFP in English 1654 GMT 27 Sep 91

[By Michel Castex]

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 27 (AFP)—Another Western hostage, probably an American, will be released by kidnappers in Lebanon in the next few days, a well-informed Lebanese source said Friday, confirming reports from Tehran. The source, close to Syria, which has played a key role in resolving the hostage crisis, said that "at least one Western hostage, probably an American, will be freed at the end of the week or during next week at the latest."

"Two hostages will perhaps be released," he said, without giving any information as to their possible identities or to the exact date of their release.

So far three Western hostages, American Edward Tracy and two Britons, John McCarthy and Jack Mann, have been released along the end of October. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, informed sources in the Ba'labakk region, a pro-Iranian stronghold where some hostages are supposedly held, said that an American hostage could be released "before Sunday." The influential TEHRAN TIMES reported Tuesday and Thursday that a release would take place "this weekend," and indicated that the hostage would be Joseph Cicippio, 60, a former accountant at the American University in Beirut.

The TIMES's predictions are taken seriously as the newspaper signaled the release of both Tracy and Mann. The Iranian leadership, a supporter of the Lebanese Hizballah whose members are among the hostage takers, has indicated recently its desire to swiftly conclude the hostage crisis under the aegis of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Talib: 'No More' Releases

NC2909163891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Talib, the imam of Jibshit, has stressed that no more foreign hostages will be freed unless Israel releases more prisoners.

Bush Initiative Hailed; Mideast Peace Stressed

JN2809123191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] With President George Bush's decision to unilaterally destroy all the short-range nuclear weapons, and to ask the Soviet Union to reach a comprehensive agreement on destroying the long-range weapons, the world has taken an additional important step toward consecrating the climate of detente, peace, and stability. Had Israel responded to international endeavors and renounced its expansionists schemes, the Middle East would now be heading quickly toward genuine peace, devoting its resources for the sake of prosperity, progress, and economic and social improvement.

The region is now witnessing just the opposite. Hardly a day goes by without Israel providing additional proof of its rejection of peace. The settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories are continuing at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's instructions. Zionist Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday announced that the peace conference, which the United States is preparing, is a trap for Israel. He also said: Israel will never relinquish the Golan. As for Agriculture Minister Eytan, he asked Shamir to openly reject the peace conference.

Settlement activities and aggression have become a disease in the Zionist entity. When peace, which is the most sacred and noble of human values, becomes a trap, then the situation requires deep-rooted treatment. It seems that Westerners in general, and the Americans in particular, realize the dimensions of this pathological phenomenon, especially since Israel's plan to alter the demography of the occupied Arab territories and to expel its legitimate inhabitants requires a great amount of money—which it wants to obtain from the taxpayers money. This simply means forcing the United States into an anti-Arab position; a position which is diametrically opposed to President Bush's peaceful initiative and his official commitment to realize a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and his endeavor to entrench international law.

No sooner had President Bush announced his decision to postpone discussion of the Israeli demand for the $10 billion, than the Zionist lobby went into action. Insults were leveled at the President, transforming him overnight into an anti-Semite. However, the Israeli campaign did not bear fruit this time. The U.S. people voiced their deep displeasure with Israel's blackmail. Opinion polls showed the American people's support for their President. Indeed, the Americans do not see any reason or circumstance at all to extend this huge amount of assistance, especially since the Israeli Government hinders the peace process in the Middle East and, with its expansionist policy of aggression, threatens the world peace and the U.S. interests in particular. The Jewish lobby's failure to undermine President Bush's stand is seen in the action of some members of Congress, known for their loyalty to Israel, who supported the U.S. policy and denounced settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Has the Shamir government learned any lessons from its latest confrontation with the U.S. Administration? No. The Israeli rulers are going ahead with their scheme of Judaisation and more settlements. On every occasion, they make it clear that they would choose the territories if they had to choose between that land and peace. It is clear that this pathological phenomenon does not only threaten peace and security in the Middle East, but also undermines international security as a whole. It is unreasonable that Israel should continue to challenge the international community and its resolutions, openly declare its aggressive policy, and translate this policy daily into settlements in the occupied Arab territories, into systematic liquidation of the Palestinian people, and into blatant aggression against human rights and the UN Charter and resolutions.

The international community, led by the United States, is always capable of ending the Israeli mutiny and restoring matters to their proper order. Generous U.S. assistance ensures Israel of its existence. Undoubtedly, increasing pressure on the Shamir government will not only reflect positively on the Middle East region but also on the Jews themselves, who are gradually emerging as victims of the Zionist ideology of aggression.

Commentary Questions Israel's Behavior, Policies

JN2509183391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Everyone knows that Israel—the entity and state—was established by a UN resolution 43 years ago. Under this resolution, part of the Palestinian land was granted to Palestine's Jews. At that time, it was known as the partition resolution. Everyone also knows that ever since this time, Israel has opposed UN resolutions; Israel has dealt with every UN resolution on the Middle East and the Arab-Zionist conflict in this way. It is strange that the body of international legitimacy has created an entity whose major task is to challenge this legitimacy—encroaching upon its resolutions, and harming its dignity before all nations—and whose political and war methods for four decades have contradicted all the principles and values on which this body of international legitimacy established its system and charter.

In the wake of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism—a resolution backed by an overwhelming majority of the international community at that time—Zionist behavior in the Middle East and other societies in which Zionism has penetrated has not exhibited any new sign supporting an abrogation of this resolution or given any new description to the Zionist Movement that will absolve it of racism and prejudice. On the contrary,

we, as well as other nations, have become more convinced that Zionism acts and spreads its poison everywhere, that it adheres to the idea that Zionists are the masters of the world and a special breed distinguished from other people. This is Zionism's Achilles heel, although its philosophers and missionaries believe it to be its invincible strength. This is the crux of the fundamental crisis from which the whole world is suffering and through which it is facing the Zionist Movement.

As we have noted before, Israel has never been a mere receiver of the Zionist call. Today, it is both a director and a missionary; it respects no interests other than those of Zionism and believes there is no law or rule forbidding it from possessing any land when the Israeli Government finds it beneficial to meet the new interests of additional settlers coming from the farthest corners of the world. So, why were we surprised when, on the eve of the proposed peace conference, Zionist Prime Minister Shamir declared that Israel would continue the settlement process and that the occupied land belonged to Israel? Why are we surprised by the fact that the Israelis have a share in the American budget, which is the right of the American people, and that the Israelis pursue new expansionist, settlement, and blackmail techniques unprecedented in the world?

All nations should be alert to the meaning of Israel's declared policy. They should confront this hostility, hostility from which Arabs have suffered more than any other nation. Arabs are loyal to the idea and requirements of peace at this critical stage in which all parties are called upon to unite and define their positions. Either they must support peace and justice regardless of the price or they support the opposite, which implies the possibility of disaster for humanity.

Peace Process, Israeli 'Intransigence' Viewed

JN2709092791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "One Concept of Peace," AL-THAWRAH says: Peace in the Middle East has one concept and one definite meaning, based on international legitimacy embodied in the UN resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Zionist conflict—particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 which call for Israel's complete withdrawal and for securing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. Any peace that is void of this concept and meaning will be a mutilated and inapplicable peace because it does not deal with the core of the problem and its real reasons; the expansionist nature of Israel, its occupation of Arab territory, and its continued rejection of the Palestinian people's rights.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Despite the world's consensus on the concept of peace and on the principle of land for peace as a practical basis for implementing it, Israel alone rejected the peace of international legitimacy and offered a settlement tailored to suit its designs and interests, which are based on expansion and aggression and securing their requisites. There is no better evidence of Israel's rejection of peace based on international legitimacy than its insistence on continuing its settlement policy, despite mounting international condemnation and its labelling as an obstacle to peace and as a source of danger that threatens to torpedo these efforts and obstruct the peace conference. This is exactly what Israel seeks out of its intransigence and rejection of the just peace.

Concluding, the newspaper says: Israel's rejection of peace based on implementation of international legitimacy and its constant substantiation of this rejection, by continuing its cancerous expansion through settlement construction in the occupied Arab territories, together constitute the climax of Israel's defiance and scorn of international will. It is an exposed attempt by Israel to embarrass U.S. policy and undermine its credibility, in light of the prominent role the U.S. Administration is playing in the peace efforts and in light of Israel's resistance to respond to that role, and even to openly rebel against it, and to engage in an overt battle with President Bush as soon as it realized that the U.S. Administration is serious in its position and really intends to realize peace on the basis of international legitimacy.

Under the headline: "Peace Is a Right, Not Something To Beg For," AL-THAWRAH says in another commentary: Every day Israel takes steps which distance it far away from peace. With every new settlement it plants in the occupied Arab territories, it pushes the region closer to the point of eruption, explosion, and no-return. The policy of burning bridges and reducing distances was used by the leaders and generals of the ruling military establishment in Tel Aviv. They employed this policy in an open provocative and defiant manner in their endeavor to evade peace and its prerequisites. This sums up the entire Israeli position, which does not only reject peace and adopts a hostile stand toward it, but also confronts this peace and is determined to foil it by all means, at any cost.

The paper adds: In our sincere quest of peace and our full response to the efforts of the international community and the U.S. efforts, in particular, to realize the just peace, based on the implementation of the UN and Security Council resolutions, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, we recall what leader al-Asad said in his interview, with the U.S. television network ABC, that peace constructs and does not destroy, and that peace is in everybody's interest.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that we will not relinquish our rights and we will not bargain or relinquish a grain of sand of the Arab territories. The just peace we seek is not something to beg for and is not a grant that is given, but it is a right that we ask for, and no right is lost so long as there is someone to ask for it.

Arab Coordination, Unified Stand Called For

JN2709160291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The current stage—which precedes the convocation of the expected peace conference and the stands of the parties involved in this conference, particularly the intransigent Israeli stand—calls for reinforcing Arab coordination and understanding. We must face the coming stage—with all its challenges and dangers—in a unified way that enables the Arabs consolidate their positions and seize their rights from the usurper, who is endeavoring to make them concede and relinquish these rights.

Arab coordination and unity are not only dictated by the Arabs' need to address the world and face their common enemy, who threatened them and continues to threaten them, in the same language, that does not tolerate any different interpretation or any retreat from rights, but are also dictated by the danger that the lack of this unity will enable the Zionist enemy achieve its objectives of dealing unilaterally with this or that Arab party, forcing it to make concessions, and consequently, weakening the stands of the other Arab parties.

The Arabs were unanimous on the peace option, and accepted the idea of the proposed conference. What is remains is to make the world see clearly the unity of their understanding and their common view of this peace.

What escalates the danger of the challenge to the Arabs, are the daily intransigent Israeli stands, which reflect Israel's insistence on rejecting any peace that does not constitute a full capitulation to its ambitions and intentions of expansion, hegemony, and tyranny—not only over the Arab territory, but also over all Arab potentials and resources. In a race with time, the Zionists, every day, plant the Arab territory with settlements and settlers, whom they imported from all over the world, to replace the original sons of the land. They are planting the Arab land with settlers in record time so that they will face the Arabs and the world at the peace conference, if it convenes, with a new fait accompli; the Judaization of the occupied Arab territory.

The Arabs know more than others the seriousness of the policy of fait accompli followed by Israel since it was established. It is still practicing, in fact, escalating this policy, as we notice now. Israel succeeded in imposing this policy in the past, only through exploiting Arab fragmentation and weakness. This means that, once again, Israel is banking on Arab division to accomplish the more serious stage in its settlement and expansionist plan and to prevent the Arabs and the world from achieving regional stability and peace. For all this, the Arabs should expeditiously intensify meetings to unite their words and close their ranks, to clearly announce their common concept of peace, which will define the fate of the Arabs and the region for coming generations, and to deprive their enemies of the opportunity to deal with each one of them unilaterally.

Such a unified stand not only safeguards Arab rights and seizes them from the usurpers, but also encourages and reinforces the position of the supporters of these rights in the world, and prompts them to put more pressure on the Israeli usurper to succumb to a just and comprehensive peace that is based on the principles of international legitimacy and its known resolutions.

Bangladesh

Commentary Welcomes President Bush's Nuclear Cut

BK2909170091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1540 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The announcement of U.S. President George Bush about a drastic cut in nuclear arms has been welcomed by the international community as a historic move. This is indeed a very rational (?approach). This is a bold step toward ending cold war in nuclear arms race. It is a step of global significance.

The U.S. President announced on Friday the most dramatic reduction of U.S. nuclear weapons since the cold war spawned a spiralling arms race. Washington is to destroy all ground-launched tactical nuclear weapons, bring home all nuclear cruise missiles, and end the alert status on which U.S. strategic bombers have operated for 34 years. The reductions would involve (?several) thousand nuclear artillery shells, warheads, and ground-launched missile in Europe and South Korea and more than 400 highly accurate Tomahawk nuclear cruise missiles aboard U.S. submarine ships worldwide as well as nuclear bombs and aircraft carriers.

While announcing the dramatic nuclear arms cut, the U.S. President has called upon the Soviet Union to match this move. The United States will begin the reduction now unilaterally. All long-range land-based U.S. missiles scheduled for destruction over the next seven years under the recently signed U.S.-Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty—START—would immediately be deactivated. President Bush also canceled the planned replacement of short-range nuclear attack missiles for strategic bombers.

Friday's announcement by the U.S. President has thus brightened the prospects of (?total) and complete nuclear disarmament for which peace-loving peoples of the world have for long been pressing. This move will certainly lead to more initiative by other nuclear powers to work together for a complete ban on and destruction of nuclear weapons of all sorts.

The U.S. President has said his move has followed the new international climate marked with the fast-moving developments in Europe and the Soviet Union. It is indeed the most befitting time to take advantage of the unparalleled opportunity offered by the recent developments in the world at large.

The U.S. move will help create conditions for all the nuclear powers to shed the heavy burden of the dangerous and costly nuclear arsenal which has threatened world peace for the past five decades. The announcement of reduction by Washington would indeed be the most significant since the United States and the Soviet Union began a costly nuclear arms race following detonation of U.S. atomic bomb on Japan in the Second World War. As such, there has been a worldwide welcome to President Bush's announcement. Apart from the the Soviet Union, support for the U.S. President's plans has come from Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Italy, Australia, and many other countries.

Bangladesh has also welcomed the U.S. President Bush's unilateral announcement to destroy and reduce different types of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in a message to the U.S. President, has termed the announcement as epoch-making and historic. She has rightly noted that the unilateral announcement of the U.S. President would contribute immensely, significantly, and positively toward all-round peace and development in the world. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has quite befittingly expressed the hope that the immense wealth to be (?released) following the disarmament of the nuclear weapons would be spent for the welfare of mankind. This would indeed go a long way in [words indistinct] poverty, hunger, and diseases.

India

Kashmir Guerrilla Leader Rejects Peace Talks

BK2809081691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 28 (AFP)—The military commander of one of the biggest Kashmiri guerrilla groups Saturday rejected New Delhi's offer of peace talks and vowed to fight on for the state's secession from India.

Shahid ul-Islam, 27, who heads the Hizballah, also warned in a telephone interview that his Moslem group would take "strong action" against three people it is holding hostage if 10 of its members were not released from prisons.

"We can't have any talks within (the framework of) the Indian constitution," he said, speaking from an undisclosed destination in the Kashmir valley. "We don't accept the Indian constitution."

Indian Home minister S.B. Chavan said Tuesday while visiting Kashmir that New Delhi was ready to talk peace with Moslem militants, and added that neither side should set pre-conditions.

Chavan's offer, Shahid said, was itself an achievement for the guerrillas fighting to secede the northern state of Kashmir, India's only Moslem-dominated province of some eight million.

Shahid, wanted by the Indian authorities, compared Kashmiri separatists with the Afghan mojahedin, and said his group had offices in Pakistan and links with the Hizballah of Iran.

Pakistan disputes the ownership of Kashmir and controls the northern third of the state which it calls "Azad (Free) Kashmir".

India has accused Pakistan of encouraging Kashmiri militants, a charge Islamabad denies. Pakistan makes no secret of its diplomatic support for the rebels, calling their campaign a struggle for self-determination.

Shahid said there were more than 50,000 armed guerrillas in Kashmir.

Asked if he felt Kashmir could secede from India, he replied: "We have reached a stage where the (Indian) government is compelled to have discussions (with us).

"Kashmir is today an international issue. Three years ago no one was bothered.... Even small boys are joining us. Everyone (here) knows how to use a pistol. All this is an achievement."

But he admitted that it was not an easy battle. The Indian Army was thousands strong and better armed. "But we have the people, and we have the determination. That is why we don't care for our lives." The Hizballah this month abducted former Kashmir tourism minister Khemlata Wakhloo, her husband O.N. Wakhloo and a bank manager, K.C. Gupta. All three are Hindus, India's majority community.

Shahid said that his group was still talking to the federally-controlled Kashmir government through mediators, demanding freedom for former group leader Mushtaq ul-Islam and nine other militants in return for the three hostages.

He warned of "strong action" against the hostages if the authorities failed to meet their demands, but did not elaborate.

Shahid admitted that unlike the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which was once the dominant group in Kashmir, the Hizballah stood for Kashmir's accession with Pakistan's "Azad Kashmir".

The JKLF wants both the Indian- and Pakistani-held Kashmir to be free.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

Pakistan's Beg on Possibility of War Over Kashmir

BK2809145891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces arrested five trained militants and eight other subversives during search operations in Anantnag, Uri, and Kupwara areas today. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered. In Baramula, a militant was killed, when a grenade he was carrying exploded in his hand.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's retired army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has again talked about the possibility of India and Pakistan going to war over the Kashmir question. In an interview to the BBC, he criticized the United States for not openly supporting the Kashmiris.

BJP Demands End to Pakistani Interference

BK2909130091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has urged the international community to put pressure on Pakistan to stop meddling in internal affairs of India. In a draft resolution on the international situation taken up for discussion at the two-day national executive in Trivandrum today, the party also called for concerted efforts by Third World countries to preserve the economic independence and maintain their identity.

Briefing newsmen on the resolution, the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, said that SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and ASEAN countries should identify the areas of cooperation and work for the economic prosperity of the region. He said the party perceived a positive change in Washington's attitude toward India-Pakistan relations. However, Washington should send a clear and unequivocal signal to Pakistan asking it to immediately stop its interference in India's domestic affairs, Mr. Vajpayee added.

Minister: Pakistanis Behind Kashmir Kidnappings

BK3009044091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, has said that most of those involved in the kidnappings in Kashmir are Pakistanis and not Kashmiris. He said that Pakistani military officers, especially trained for the purpose, are disguising as Kashmiri militants. The minister was talking to a news agency informally in Nagpur.

Mr. Jacob said the Golden Crescent of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir has become a major source of narcotic drugs in the region. The minister expressed concern over the spurt in Naxalit [maoist extremist] activities during the last two years. He said steps will be taken soon at the national level to meet the Naxalit menace.

Solanki on Pakistani Nuclear Program

BK2809091891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, has said the United States favors bilateral solution of the Kashmir issue by India and Pakistan on the basis of the Simla agreement. He told an American TV network that he has received confirmation of the American position on the issue from both direct and indirect sources.

Referring to Pakistan's clandestine nuclear program, Mr. Solanki reiterated India's position that it believes in utilizing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He said New Delhi monitors all developments having a bearing on India's security. Asked whether India will sign the

Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Mr. Solanki said it is discriminatory and not the best instrument to prevent proliferation.

Bangladesh Assures Minister on Assam 'Militants'

BK2809045891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Bangladesh has assured India that it will not allow Assam militants to operate from its soil. Disclosing this to newsmen in Bhubaneswar, the union minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, said the situation in Assam has improved after the deployment of the army. Meanwhile, the United Liberation Front of Assam has extended the deadline for the release of six hostages by another 72 hours. The earlier deadline ended at 7 p.m. yesterday.

Chief Minister Describes ULFA Links Abroad

BK2909041491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, has ruled out withdrawal of the army from the state till the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activities are contained. Talking to a news agency in Gangtok, he said the irrational attitude of the ULFA has led to the collapse of negotiations. The chief minister has again appealed to the ULFA to release the hostages at the earliest. He spoke of the evidence establishing ULFA's contact with Pakistan, China, and the United Kingdom, in addition to Bangladesh. Mr. Saikia said the ULFA has also links with the JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] in Kashmir and some militant groups in Punjab.

Meanwhile, 37 suspected ULFA militants were arrested yesterday from various parts of Assam. The body of an unidentified person was recovered from (Darika) river in Sibsagar District.

Official Discloses Artillery Manufacturing Plan

BK2709162891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] India is fully geared to face any external aggression and will soon start manufacturing modern artillery. This was disclosed by the director general of artillery, Lieutenant General Jagdish Singh, in Gurgaon today while briefing newsmen on the 164th anniversary of the regiment of artillery on its raising day tomorrow. He said another research is going on in the field of modern weaponry and the country will be self-dependent soon.

Four Nuclear Power Station Supply Plants Planned

BK2709113191 Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 91 p 6

[Text] Hyderabad, Sept 8 (UNI)—The Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) here which supplies fuel and zirconium alloy requirements for the nuclear power stations in the country will set up four new plants at an estimated cost of Rs 650 crore during the eighth plan period.

NFC chief executive Balarama Moorthy told newsmen here today that the proposed projects which had already been cleared by the Planning Commission were expected to get Cabinet approval soon. Three of the new projects would be set up in the sprawling NFC complex.

The units to be set up at the NFC complex were: Uranium oxide fuel plant to produce 660 tonnes of uranium oxide pellets per year, uranium fuel assembly plant and zircoloy fabrication plant.

The fourth one to produce 300 tonnes of zirconium sponge per annum was being set up at Palayakayal in Tamil Nadu and the land for the plant had already been acquired.

He said the four units were being set up to achieve a capacity of 6050 MW of nuclear power by the turn of the century.

The initially designed capacities of various plants at the NFC were being progressively increased to meet the fuel and zirconium alloy requirements of the power plants at Tarapur (Maharashtra), Kota (Rajasthan), Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu) and Narora (UP [Uttar Pradesh]) and the ones at Kakrapar (Gujarat), Kota (Rajasthan) and Kiaga (Karnataka) which were at different stages of construction, Dr Moorthy said.

The initial fuel inventory for each power reactor of 235 MWE capacity amounted to 3672 fuel bundles, holding in all 55,500 KG of uranium oxide, and the annual replacement requirement for the operation of the reactor was about half this number.

The raw material for the production of the uranium fuel was the uranium concentrate that was supplied from the uranium mine and mill at Jadugoda, Bihar. On the other hand the source mineral for the production of zirconiummetal was zircon (zirconium silicate) that was available in the beach sand deposits in Kerala.

Students Continue To Protest Job Reservations

BK2709160191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Students in the capital took to the streets again today to protest against the government's reservation policy. Thirty buses were damaged in various parts of the city as they indulged in stone throwing and deflating of tires. A spokesman for the DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] said that one bus was set on fire. He said the DTC will ply the buses in the city tomorrow as per their normal schedules.

The minister for welfare, Mr. Sitaram Kesri, has said that there is a broad consensus in parliament in favor of reservation for the backward classes. Reacting to newsmen's queries about the antireservation stir in Delhi, Mr.

Kesri said Delhi is not India, and only the parliament represents the people of the country.

Youths Protest Atrocities in Uttar Pradesh

BK2709162391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh Youth Congress-I today held a rally in Lucknow in protest against the increased incidents of atrocities on scheduled castes and minority communities in the wake of the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. According to an official spokesman, the police resorted to lathi [baton] charge when the ralliers were moving toward Bidhan Bhavan [Legislative Assembly building] to submit a memorandum to the government. He said this became necessary to control the situation when they insisted to move toward the bhavan and indulged in stone throwing. About 2 dozen workers including 10 policemen were injured in the incident. About 250 persons have been arrested. The party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar, has described the police action as an unprovoked and brutal attack. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, he demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident.

Minister on Further Postponement of Punjab Polls

BK2909092191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has ruled out further postponement of elections in Punjab beyond the 15th of February. In an interview to PTI, Mr. Chavan said the center wanted to hand over power to the elected representatives. He said after an elected government takes over the center will certainly hold talks on the implementation of the Punjab accord.

On the Kashmir issue, Mr. Chavan said the government will continue its efforts to break the barrier of mistrust and suspicion. He said there is no magic wand and the process of confidence building may be slow. The home minister said that he has received feedback indicating that some of the militant organizations in the valley were frustrated. Referring to the unemployment problem in the valley, Mr. Chavan said that an economic package will be worked out if necessary. He said the government is formulating a national policy to deal with kidnapping. Mr. Chavan urged those political leaders in Kashmir to go to the people and win back public confidence.

Talking about the situation in Assam, the home minister denied any rift between the center and the state government over the release of hostages. He said both the state and the center were interested in the safe release of those taken hostage by ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam].

West Bengal Chief Minister Leaves for PRC

BK2709161091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has welcomed the center's new reservation policy. Talking to newsmen at Calcutta Airport before emplaning for Delhi en route to Beijing, Mr. Basu said his party always wanted that priority should be given to economic criteria for purposes of reservation.

Commonwealth on Protecting Small Nation Interests

BK2709131291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The New Delhi Commonwealth parliamentary conference has called for comprehensive measures, including an enhanced role for the United Nations, to protect the interests of small countries. They made several suggestions in the third plenary session of the conference today to tackle the security threats to small nations. The Cyprus delegate said that a Commonwealth defense force should be set up to provide security to these nations. The Singapore delegate pointed out that vulnerability and economic weakness of the small countries are the root causes of their insecurity. The Indian delegate emphasized the role of democracy to provide stability to the governments of these countries. There were also a plea to big countries to respect the independence and sovereignty of small countries.

Commentary Urges Better Essential Items Supply

BK2809112091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Commentary by S. Sethuraman]

[Text] The galloping inflation which hurts the poor the most is undoubtedly a matter of deep national concern. In staging a massive rally in the capital yesterday and charging the government with failure to bring down prices as promised, the National Front and left parties have demonstrated the strong public mood and disquiet about further hardships that might be in store for them. A double-digit inflation is not a noncommon feature. Much higher rates of price rise than the present 15 to 16 percent were experienced in the early seventies and the early eighties.

What makes the current wave of inflation highly disturbing is its concentration in essential commodities, especially food grain, pulses, edible oil and sugar, despite three successive bumper crop years. A number of other food articles such as potato and other vegetables, spices and condiments and milk have become so dear as to be beyond the reach of the even the relatively better off urban dwellers, let alone the rural poor.

Inflation has, no doubt, been building up on the economy over the years with massive budget deficits and excessive growth in money supply. The finance minister

candidly told parliament early this month that other factors such as the increases in prices of petroleum products, fertilizer, and sugar as part of fiscal adjustment and foreign exchange difficulties in arranging of imports of essential items have also contributed to the steady price rise. The increase in transportation cost, rail or road, has worsened the situation. In mid-September, the wholesale price index on a point-to-point basis was still as high as 15.7 percent. It is [word indistinct] the government has embarked on a strategy of fiscal and monetary tightening which it hopes will have a deflationary impact on the price level. The finance minister expects the inflationary pressures would begin to abate in the third quarter, namely, October to December—normally a period for a downtrend in prices. If this expectation is to be fulfilled, the government would need to act more effectively in supply management, making some essential imports and moving against hoarders and profiteers with a heavy hand.

The present inflationary phase has nothing to do with the policies recently unfolded. Though these would for the near future cause some transitional problems, including possible displacement of labor, fiscal, and monetary tightening would certainly make an impact, but only with a time lag, possibly in six months. Meanwhile, with recent welcome developments in regard to foreign exchange availability, the government would have to improve the supply position of key items like edible oil and reverse the inflationary trends. Doubts and misgivings cannot be allayed until the government has succeeded in stabilizing the economy, notably with a sharp reduction in prices of essential commodities.

Iran

President Bush's Nuclear Arms Initiative Viewed

LD2909135691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Greetings dear listeners. U.S. President George Bush has ordered the unilateral elimination of all U.S. short-range nuclear tactical arms on land and at sea. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Government's order for the complete elimination of its short-range nuclear weapons is, in fact, the result of a multiple considerations. On the international dimension, the U.S. Government has observed current changes and developments in international relations; it has also become confident that Soviet developments are long-lasting, and that the possibility for a return to the previous era no longer exists. It has therefore decided to reduce its short-range nuclear arms. Regarding that decision, it also consulted its allies beforehand, receiving their agreement.

Moreover, regarding Europe, the order can extensively reduce probable tension and help establish further tranquility and leave the security of Europe to Europeans—something that Europeans have favored for many long years. Also particularly considering a possible European political unification in the near future, it can have an important influence on the creation of regional security arrangements by the countries of the region. The domestic effects of that order cannot be ignored by the United States, considering that there will be a reduction in the pressure exerted on the budget by the heavy cost of maintaining those arms.

Although some experts believe the order will have positive effects on America, Europe, and even the Soviet Union —particularly in connection with reducing that country's military expenditure and helping its shattered economy—others believe that the U.S. Government's insistence on continuing the B-2 and Star Wars projects is indicative of the Bush administration's militaristic policies, which are reminiscent of the Reagan era.

According to U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, even though the U.S. nuclear system has undergone extensive changes, the American defense weapons, particularly the nuclear ballistic missiles, are still quite capable of countering any kind of attack. This issue, in fact, is indicative of the point that the U.S. Government continues to seek to maintain its global power and supremacy, and its tactics can only be seen in light of its continuing pursuit of power and absolute global hegemony.

But how far can it influence other countries' viewpoints through resorting to such maneuvers? That is a question that must be answered by waiting and watching current world developments and the actions of world leaders.

Foreign Minister Velayati Returns From UN

NC3009072791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati returned to Tehran from New York last night and was interviewed by our correspondent. The foreign minister discussed in detail the results of his visit the most important of which was the meeting of the foreign ministers of seven Persian Gulf countries.

[Begin Velayati recording] This was the second joint session of Iran and the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. Many activities were carried out on the level of experts and in relation to the plans for cooperation among the sides since the last meeting a year ago. The outcome of these activities was the second session which was held in New York two days ago.

One of the outstanding results of this session was that we set a date for the next session, which will be held this winter. We also decided that practical and gradual steps should be taken toward cooperation between us and the

GCC member countries. Cooperation on the economic and commercial arena will be our emphasis initially.

We have our policies on the Persian Gulf. One of the strategic reasons the Islamic Republic emphasizes cooperation with the GCC members is to weaken the grounds for any foreign presence. If the regional countries are able to ensure regional security through cooperation, there will be no pretext for a continued foreign presence.

We also protest the Kuwaiti-U.S. pact and have asked Kuwait to explain to us why it has concluded this deal and to reveal the contents of the pact. We are waiting for a response.

Our relations with the GCC followed a decision by the Supreme National Security Council of Iran which assigned the Foreign Ministry the responsibility of beginning this cooperation and reporting to the National Security Council on progress. We continue our activities within the framework of the Islamic Republic's principles which are based on cooperation among regional countries on the basis of mutual trust so that cooperation security can be established in the region on the basis of this trust. We have repeatedly stated our serious opposition to any foreign presence in the region. The GCC members have said that they accept the Islamic Republic's views on regional cooperation. We believe that this is progress in the field of cooperation as well. [end recording]

Commenting on the meetings that he held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, Velayati said that he held talks on Afghanistan with the UN secretary general and the Pakistani foreign minister. He pointed out that any solution in Afghanistan should be based on the principle of nonintervention and be a just solution, which will ultimately lead to a Muslim and nonaligned government that has the support of that nation's Muslims.

Velayati said that the Chinese president will visit Iran soon and that the two countries' relations are expanding satisfactorily.

Commenting on the Soviet Union, the foreign minister told our correspondent: During this trip I held my first meeting with the new Soviet foreign minister. He thanked us for our policies.

Velayati commented on the Islamic Republic's policies on the Palestinian problem:

[Begin recording] From now on the Islamic Republic's stances on Palestine will be similar to past policies. These are the same policies that our deceased imam set and which are being followed by the esteemed leader of the revolution. In other words, we do not believe the Zionist regime to be legitimate nor do we believe the emigration of Jews from outside Palestine to be legitimate. This is something I explicitly stated in my interviews, both in the live interview with NBC television and in the public interview at UN Headquarters. Those who emigrated to Israel and whose arrival was at the cost of the Palestinians should go. The Palestinians should return to their territories and the territory of Palestine should return exactly to the way it was before it was occupied by the Zionists and these satanic emigrations, all of whom have ulterior motives. There is no other alternative. In our speech, we clearly described the Palestinian people's uprising as the sole way to liberate Palestine. We will continue this principled stance even if no other country joins us because this is the stance of all Muslims, even if governments are cautious in their adoption of a correct and principled approach. [end recording]

Views Sideline GCC Meetings

LD2809114491 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 28, IRNA—The foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Iran held their second annual meeting here Friday and discussed issues of mutual interest and the current level of bilateral relations.

'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and the six GCC foreign ministers are here to attend the ongoing 46th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly. The ministers issued a joint press communique at the end of the meeting in which they expressed satisfaction with the progress in their relations.

They also reiterated their determination to continue strengthening their relations and cooperation in various fields, based on the principles of the United Nations and Organization of the Islamic Conference and international law applicable to the development of cordial relations among their nations.

The ministers further stressed in the communique respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of internationally recognized boundaries, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-resort to force or the threat of use of force in their relations, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other and promotion of dialogue and mutual understanding.

They also reviewed the current level of relations between Iran and the GCC countries and agreed to meet in the region at the ministerial level in the first quarter of 1992 with a view to establishing a framework for the strengthening of their relations.

On Friday, the Iranian minister also held separate meetings with the U.N. secretary general and his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Uruguay, Brazil and Turkmenia.

After talks with U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, Velayati told reporters that the discussions centered on the Afghan issue, Persian Gulf security, and the unimplemented articles of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which ended the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

Velayati thanked Perez de Cuellar for his efforts to bring about the release of all hostages and prisoners particularly the four Iranians kidnapped by the Phalangists in 1982.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told Iranian reporters after talks with Velayati that Riyadh favors expansion of relations and cooperation with Tehran and that the two enjoy fruitful consultations.

In talks with the Pakistani foreign minister, Velayati discussed the Afghan issue and the forthcoming summit of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which groups Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan. He said the ECO summit which was due to be held in Tehran in the near future has been postponed for a month due to the elections in Turkey. Prior to the summit, an ECO session at ministerial level will be held.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek told Velayati that a high-level economic delegation will visit Iran to attend the 17th Tehran International Trade Fair to be held October 2-12. Rezek himself will visit Tehran in early November, he added. In talks with Uruguay's foreign minister, Velayati accepted an invitation to visit the Latin American country.

The Turkmen foreign minister briefed Velayati on the internal developments in the Soviet Union and called for expansion of relations with Iran.

Velayati said that Tehran favors expansion of relations with the Soviet Muslim republics within the framework of its overall ties with the Soviet Union adding that the imminent visit by the Turkmen president to Tehran will be a positive step in this direction.

Views U.S.-Kuwaiti Pact

LD2809133991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Following the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries, Mr. Velayati gave an exclusive interview to a correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New York. Answering our correspondent's question on his assessment of today's meeting, he said:

[Begin Velayati recording] The aim of the session was to reach an understanding on practical steps for the ways and means of continuing cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of the southern littoral of the Persian Gulf. During the bilateral and collective talks, detailed negotiations took place on every individual country's position.

The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the security arrangements of the region are clear. We continue to believe that the establishment of trust between the countries of the region—between Iran and the GCC countries—is the fundamental basis for any cooperation. Cooperation is the main infrastructure for the provision of security. We continue to oppose the presence of alien forces in the region. We openly stated this to the GCC member states.

Concerning the recent pact between the United States and Kuwait, our policy is clear. We explained our position to them both in Tehran and in New York. Today I attended a news conference and I answered correspondents' questions. Once again, I described the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to this pact and I announced: Based on the decision of Islamic Republic of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, explanations have been demanded from Kuwait. We are awaiting Kuwait's response. Therefore, our positions have been aired in detail from various forums.

During my speech to the UN General Assembly, I explained those principles on which our cooperation with the countries of the region rely. The viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran are clear. Therefore, nothing remains to be said. However, the press statement that was issued at the end of today's session, in reality, determines the practical ways and means of pursuing our cooperation with the GCC countries. This is an important and positive step. [end recording]

Besharati on Regional Issues, Ties, Hostages

PM2709150691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Sep 91 p 4

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Besharati by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sadiqi and Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haq in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Besharati's visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] is part of the Iranian move to establish common ground with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states on regional security issues and the other issues of common concern, including peace endeavors in the Middle East and oil policies.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed him during his visit to Abu Dhabi after he was received by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, to whom he conveyed a message from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He began by speaking about his meeting with Shaykh Zayid:

Our relations with the UAE and the other countries of the region are good. We try from time to time to explore the views of the region's states on certain economic and political issues. During my visit I handed Shaykh Zayid a message from the Iranian president. It dealt with issues of common concern, including the region's security and the peace conference.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is there anything new in Iran's view of the region's security?

[Besharati] The region's history has proved that security and stability there and the absence of threats to it and its interests depend on harmony and accord among the region's countries.

In the absence of such harmony and accord, the region becomes exposed to threats, and its stability and security become exposed to danger.

This is why we believe that the region's security must involve all the Gulf states. All the region's countries must take part, because this region is sensitive and strategic and controls 75 percent of the world's oil.

If the world devotes interest to this region because of its strategic importance, the more so should we devote interest to the region's security, since we do not lack the economic and human capabilities and weapons. These factors provide security for the region's countries.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is there a mechanism which you visualize for Iran's participation in the security arrangements?

[Besharati] Iran has submitted a plan to the GCC states. These states have studied the plan asked us some questions and sought clarifications. We in turn raised some questions recently with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. We are awaiting the reply to these questions and expect to receive it at the meeting to be held between GCC foreign ministers and Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the most prominent points of the Iranian plan and the nature of the questions to which you requested answers?

[Besharati] Let us leave that until after the meeting, because the matter is still under discussion.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Iraqi attempts have been made to improve relations with Tehran, and negotiations were held last month to that end. What stage has been reached in these attempts, and what have the talks with the Iraqi side achieved?

[Besharati] The negotiations to which you refer dealt with the question of implementing Clause 3 of Security Council Resolution 598 concerning supervision of the POW's, and we discussed the release of the remaining POW's.

As for bilateral relations, no decision has been taken in this regard. This is because, in Iraq's view, an improvement of relations is linked to Iran's abandonment of the commitment to UN Security Council resolutions and the economic boycott resolutions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does that mean that Iraq sets a backtracking on the Security Council resolutions as a condition for improving relations?

[Besharati] Not a condition, but they do expect that one aspect of improving relations is a backtracking on the commitment to the boycott resolutions and overlooking Iran's implementation of them.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did they openly ask Iran to stop the economic boycott?

[Besharati] Several times. But it was not possible to transcend the international resolutions. Of course, they raised other ideas and we gave our reply.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe that there is any chance of normalizing relations with Iraq under the present regime?

[Besharati] We have said that the six GCC countries' cooperation with Iran and the empty seat of the Iraqi regime is the means to ensure the region's security [as published].

Since all the region's countries refuse to deal with the present Iraqi regime, Iraq cannot participate in the security arrangements except after the advent of a regime which the Iraq people want. Then it can play a role in the region's security.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] This means that there is no chance of including Iraq, with its present regime, in the regional security arrangements.

[Besharati] Of course not. All the region's states reject this.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There is talk of Iranian-U.S. contacts and an improvement in relations. What is the truth about these contacts and what stage has been reached in the efforts to improve relations?

[Besharati] We have numerous problems with the United States. Last week documents were published in the U.S. Congress about the U.S. role in Iran's war with Iraq over eight years. The documents show that the United States supplied Iraq with valuable information about Iran.

We must ask here: How can we establish relations, in view of its role in the war with Iraq?

We also still remember the victims of the civilian plane shot down by the U.S. Navy—291 passengers, 72 of whose bodies we could not find. We also remember that the United States has frozen our money for 13 years.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] So you have no contacts with the U.S. Administration.

[Besharati] No.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But there have been press reports of contacts through third parties.

[Besharati] The Swiss Embassy in Washington, which looks after our interests, assumes the task of delivering

messages from the U.S. Administration to us, and it receives our replies to them.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What kind of subjects do these messages deal with?

[Besharati] Various issues on various occasions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How does Iran views efforts being made for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East?

[Besharati] I believe that matters are becoming more difficult and more complicated. Baker returned empty-handed from his recent tour. The parties are adopting different positions, since Syria adheres to the withdrawal from the occupied territories and the Palestinians—the people concerned with the problem—stand silent, and many sectors of them refuse to participate in the conference.

So the future of the peace conference is not clear—which creates difficulties.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What kind of role is Iran playing to resolve the hostage problem in Lebanon?

[Besharati] We have made major efforts to secure the release of all hostages held by the various quarters, because we reject and condemn that method as a matter of principle. We have made sacrifices in this regard and are making tireless efforts to resolve this problem.

These efforts included the release of Jackie Mann, in addition to the efforts that we have made recently. We hope that another hostage will be released next week.

If Israel displays flexibility in releasing the Iranians, Lebanese, and Palestinians, I expect all the hostages to be released before January.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How would you assess your relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the light of the recent positive developments?

[Besharati] Our relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are good, better than at any other time in recent years.

We recently appointed Dr. Hadi Najaf our ambassador to Riyadh. Saudi Arabia has accepted the appointment and he is expected to assume his post next month. On this occasion we thank officials in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for all the efforts they made to look after Iranian pilgrims during the last season.

We believe that the cordial and strong relations between the Islamic states inspire satisfaction among all.

Rafsanjani Receives Syrian Chief of Staff

LD2809120291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanani received Mr. Hikmat al-Shahabi, the Syrian joint chief of staff, this morning. The meeting was also attended by Brigadier Shahbazi, joint chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. al-Shahabi conveyed the warm greetings and kind regards of President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, and submitted a report on the negotiations held with the military officials of our country. He said: From the viewpoint of the Syrian leadership, the relations between Iran and Syria are very strong. They are based upon a true fraternal spirit and an accurate analysis of the problems of the region and the world. The expansion of friendly relations and the exchange of viewpoints is more essential than ever before, especially after the developments in the region.

Next, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr. al-Asad for his friendly message and said: The Syrian Arab Republic continues to stand side by side with the Islamic Republic of Iran as a friendly, brotherly country. The actions of the Syrian Government, as a country in the front line of the struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem, are trustworthy. We hope that the Government and people of Syria, and the rest of the world's Muslims, will be rewarded for the difficulties they have endured for the liberation of the occupied lands of Palestine and Lebanon.

At the end of his speech, the president expressed his hope that Iran and Syria can defend the interests and rights of the Muslim people of the region through coordinated action.

U.S. Said Planning Destruction of Palestinians

LD2709222691 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 27 Sep 91

["IRGC Commander Warns of 'Sinister' U.S. Designs"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Qom, Sept. 27, IRNA—A senior military commander warned today that global arrogance, when its sinister goal of destroying Palestinians is materialized, may try to provoke an all- out war between Shiite and Sunni Muslims because of its hostility towards Islamic Iran.

Major-General Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), further said that through the so- called Arab-Israeli peace plan the United States is scheming the destruction of Palestinians and their identity.

Speaking at the Qom Theological Seminary on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Almighty's final messenger to mankind, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), he cautioned that global arrogance is getting prepared for destroying the Islamic and revolutionary values of Iran, particularly on the cultural front.

Terming Washington's version of the new world order "a plot for domineering the whole world," the IRGC commander said Iran should vigilantly employ all its might to prevent the U.S. from finding a foothold in the Middle East, especially in the Persian Gulf.

Elsewhere in his speech, Reza'i thanked the neighbouring Pakistan for not allowing the U.S. to establish a military base in that Muslim country.

UN's Perez de Cuellar Interviewed in Tehran

NC2909081091 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Sep 91 pp 1, 28

["Exclusive" interview with UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar during his visit to Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpt] [KEYHAN] Your Excellency, Mr. Perez de Cuellar: Thank you for granting KEYHAN this exclusive interview during your brief stay. Your few days in Iran indicate the significance of the talks and the vast spectrum they covered. On what topics did your talks with the Iranian officials center? And if a specific outcome is achieved, what is your plan for the full implementation of the other paragraphs of Resolution 598?

[Perez de Cuellar] The most significant topic I discussed with President Rafsanjani and with Foreign Minister Velayati was the full implementation of UN Resolution 598. We discussed this in detail, studying Paragraphs 6, 7, and 8. You are acquainted with their contents.

My personal view is that the Tehran meetings and talks were extremely useful. I learned of the Iranian Government's clear stances. The Governments of Iran and Iraq gave me their estimates of the damages they suffered in the war, and, considering Paragraph 6 of Resolution 598, these will be studied, and a report prepared by neutral experts will be examined at the Security Council. Regarding Paragraph 7, I have sent a delegation to assess the damages done by the war and to study reconstruction needs. A delegation will arrive in Iran in October (Mehr) to complete the report which I will then present to the Security Council. I will ask the nations to attend a session or conference on finding the money and technology to help reconstruction. Regarding Paragraph 8, we discussed Persian Gulf security and stability.

[KEYHAN] Will the talks on Persian Gulf stability and security be limited only to the Tehran talks?

[Perez de Cuellar] I will continue these discussions in Saudi Arabia too. Moreover, I will also talk with the secretary general of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. I will consider the outcome in New York.

At any rate, my visit to your country was extremely useful and I especially thank President Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati for their warm approach. The Iranian officials offered us good facilities during this visit. I think that conditions are now favorable for the full implementation of Resolution 598.

[KEYHAN] Mr. Secretary General, what is the most significant element delaying the implementation of Resolution 598? Could it, or other elements, delay the implementation of the resolution once again?

[Perez de Cuellar] One major element was Iraq's war with Kuwait, on which international attention was focused. Now that is over, I think we have the conditions and the necessary calm to fully implement Resolution 598.

[KEYHAN] Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the hostages crisis has become headline news again. In view of Israel's release of 51 Lebanese prisoners, how do you see the resolution of this crisis?

[Perez De Cuellar] The day these prisoners were released was a happy day for me. We will continue our efforts for the release of all the prisoners. I am trying to gain information on the four Iranian diplomats who disappeared in Lebanon, and so far have contacted representatives of four countries. The release of prisoners has made many families happy. I believe this is the beginning of a process which, I hope, will lead to the release of all the hostages in southern Lebanon. I also hope that other European hostages will also be released; as UN secretary general I cannot differentiate among hostages. The problem of the Lebanese, European, and American hostages is a problem common to all humanity.

[KEYHAN] What plans do you have for Afghanistan, Western Sahara, and El Salvador—as the three unsolved hotbeds?

[Perez de Cuellar] Apparently you know that I have plans and want to follow up the problems related to these hotbeds.

[KEYHAN] This is a requirement of being a journalist.

[Perez de Cuellar] ... That is true. As far as Afghanistan is concerned, we are in contact with your government, and we are exchanging serious views on this. I am happy that we agree in our assessments of the situation and the threat posed by the spread of violence in Afghanistan.

[KEYHAN] Where has your five-point plan on Afghanistan led?

[Perez de Cuellar] Worsening violence in Afghanistan cannot help my five-point plan and the search for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan problem. I have presented the plan to all sides and efforts to solve the problem are underway. I have held talks with the leaders of three Afghan mojahedin groups and they too support the plan. I will also hold talks on Afghanistan in Saudi Arabia before going on to New York to talk to the foreign ministers of the sides involved. Naturally, I will be talking with the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister too, and the foreign ministers of Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Holds Talks

Discusses Kashmir With UNSC President

BK2709160291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo held separate meetings with UN Security Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee and the foreign ministers of Turkey and Iraq in New York and briefed them on the situation in the occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan. During the meetings Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo called for steps to resolve the Kashmir dispute and said the massive human rights violations are taking place in the Indian-held Kashmir. He said the Security Council should use its influence and persuade India to honor its commitments under the Security Council so that the people of Kashmir could decide their future in a plebiscite under the UN auspices. He also briefed them on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's efforts to engage in a meaningful dialogue with India to resolve all disputes, including Kashmir.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also briefed them on the latest developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan efforts to seek a political settlement of the conflict so that Afghan refugees can go back to their homeland with honor and dignity.

Turkish Foreign Minister Sifa Giray expressed the desire to increase Pakistan-Turkish cooperation in various fields.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir also expressed his desire to further strengthen the existing ties between Pakistan and Iraq.

Meets Iranian Foreign Minister

BK2809134691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, has held talks with the Iranian foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in New York. The two foreign ministers pledged to continue their cooperation in pursuit of a political settlement in Afghanistan. They however said that no further progress was possible while the head of the Kabul regime, Mr. Najibollah, remained in power. Mr. Kanjoo briefed the Iranian foreign minister on latest situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir. He especially drew his attention to the ongoing Indian atrocities to suppress the indigenous uprising of Kashmiri people for exercise of their right to self-determination as provided in the UN resolution. Mr. Velayati expressed sympathy with the plight of Kashmiri people with the hope that the dispute would be settled in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Raises Kashmir, Afghan Issues at ICO

BK2909163491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] At a special meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] at the United Nations, Pakistan has drawn the world's attention toward the plight of the people of Kashmir and Afghanistan who continue to suffer daily abuses and oppression at the hands of occupation forces. Addressing the meeting, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, expressed the confidence that the Islamic community shall not falter in its determination to ensure that no Muslim is denied his self-respect and dignity. He said Pakistan's position on the Gulf crisis was based on principle.

Addressing the meeting in his capacity as chairman of the organization, the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, called for preserving Muslim unity and seeking solutions to problems facing the Islamic world.

Military Commanders Meet With Indian Delegation

BK2709153691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Pakistan and Indian defense delegations held talks in Rawalpindi yesterday. They considered the firing incidents at the line of control in Kashmir and measures to prevent occurrence of such incidents and improve the situation meaningfully. They agreed on further arrangements for more contacts between the sector commanders of the armed forces of the two countries. They also agreed in principle to take confidence building measures. It is expected that these will be further discussed and finalized during the forthcoming foreign secretary-level talks. Both delegations also agreed on exchange of military delegations between the two countries.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Lieutenant General Pir Dad Khan, director general of Joint Staff Headquarters, while the Indian delegation was led by Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, director general of military operation.

The Indian defense delegation also met the chairman and the designated-chairman of the joint chief of staff committee, chief of army staff, and the defense secretary.

The Indian defense delegation arrived in Lahore this morning and visited historic places of the city. The delegation left for New Delhi this afternoon.